

Oil prices rise as Middle East clashes continue

Benchmark crude prices rose Friday as anti-government clashes in the Middle East kept worries of oil supply disruptions alive ahead of the Presidents Day holiday weekend.

Read more in Aruba Today
Business Pages B 8 & 9



Al-Qaida video after Egypt upheaval



CAIRO – Al-Qaida's deputy leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, has issued his first message since the upheaval began in Egypt, saying the country's rule has long "deviated from Islam." Al-Zawahri, an Egyptian, makes no mention of the wave of protests in Egypt or the toppling last week of longtime leader Hosni Mubarak in the 34-minute video, which the U.S.-based monitoring group SITE says was posted on Islamic militant websites Friday. Instead, he gives a lecture on Egypt's modern history, blaming Western colonialists for implanting secular, un-Islamic law. He says "the reality of Egypt is the reality of deviation from Islam" and denounces democracy in general as "non-religious." The video is dated to an Islamic month that corresponds with the date Jan. 5-Feb. 3. □



MELTED



Temperature swings 100 degrees in one week

OKLAHOMA - Residents in the Northern Oklahoma town of Nowata experienced a nearly 110-degree shift in the weather this week after a cold front brought temperatures down to a record-setting -31 degrees. Today, it's a balmy 72 degrees in Nowata. Yesterday, it reached 79 degrees. "Isn't it crazy? I love it," Nowata resident Julie Koupe told local channel News on 6. On Feb. 10, it was slightly colder in the region than it was on the South Pole, notes Tulsa World writer Cary

Aspinall. More than 3,000 Nowata homes lost power and residents spent the next few days digging their cars and homes out of the snow. There was so much snow in Tulsa last week that city officials began debating provisional plans to truck it out of town. On Thursday, the 79 degree weather tied for the warmest Feb. 17 since 1907. Climate scientists note that extreme swings in weather are associated with the gradual warming of the

earth's climate. And the Oklahoma Climatological Survey has verified that the state's average temperature readings have been trending upward, with some year-to-year variations, since the late 1980s. But broader climate trends notwithstanding, Oklahoma has long been known for its unpredictable weather. The local saying (attributed to Will Rogers) goes, "If you don't like the weather in Oklahoma, wait five minutes." This time, Oklahomans had to wait a week.

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NASA readies for launch



CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida – NASA will launch the first of three final space shuttle missions next week, sending the shuttle Discovery on its last flight on a long-delayed cargo run to the International Space Station, officials said on Friday. Liftoff of the Discovery, NASA's senior spaceship, is targeted for Thursday at 4:50 p.m. from the Kennedy Space Center. Problems with the ship's fuel

tank have kept the mission on hold since November. An unrelated hydrogen leak forced NASA to cancel a launch attempt on November 5. Technicians then discovered a crack in the insulating foam that covers the shuttle's fuel tank, a potentially serious safety issue. "The teams have done a great job. I think we're ready to go next week," Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA's associate administrator

for space operations, told reporters. In 2003, space shuttle Columbia was damaged by a piece of foam insulation that fell off the tank and hit the ship's wing during liftoff. The shuttle broke apart as it flew through the atmosphere for landing 16 days later, killing all seven crewmembers aboard. The crack in Discovery's insulation proved more than skin deep. Engineers discovered cracking in underlying support beams that provide structure between the tank's liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen compartments. NASA worked on the problem for two months before determining that a slight defect in the batch of aluminum-lithium used to manufacture the tank's beams was the root cause. □

Green River Killer pleads guilty to 49th murder

SEATTLE – Convicted "Green River Killer" Gary Ridgway pleaded guilty on Friday to his 49th murder charge, after being shouted down in court by a man in the audience as he tried to apologize. Ridgway, who is considered the nation's most prolific serial killer, spoke in a hoarse voice as he entered the guilty plea on his 62nd birthday, admitting that he killed 20-year-old Rebecca Marrero, who was last seen alive on December 3, 1982. Under a plea deal Ridgway made in 2003, he was spared the death penalty in exchange for confessing to all of the murders linked to him at the time or any that were later discovered. Ridgway, who is serving a life prison term without the possibility of parole, had previously confessed to Marrero's murder but prosecutors said at the time that they didn't have enough evidence include her killing in the plea deal. The convicted killer started to apologize in court on Friday for Marrero's murder, but was cut off when an unidentified man sitting with the victim's family began shouting obscenities at him. The victim's sister, Mary Marrero, her 79-year-old mother standing shakily at her side, told King County Superior Court Judge Mary Roberts that her family has been devastated by the murder and wished that Ridgway faced the death penalty. "The day she came up missing I wanted to kill myself," Mary Marrero said, her voice breaking. "I still feel that today ... There is so much anger. What does it take to get the death penalty in the state of Washington? I do not agree with this plea deal." □

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**Obama touts innovation agenda for spurring jobs**

HILLSBORO, Oregon – President Barack Obama touted his agenda to foster innovation as a means of spurring job creation and boosting U.S. global competitiveness during a high-tech visit to the Pacific

Northwest on Friday. Obama used a tour of an Intel Corp semiconductor plant in Oregon to underscore his commitment to finding ways to reduce stubbornly high unemployment -- considered crucial to his 2012 re-election

**Family of five killed
in Colorado crash**

THORNTON, Colo. – A family of five was killed in a Denver suburb when a speeding sports utility vehicle struck a raised median, went airborne and crushed their pickup truck, authorities said on Friday. Witnesses saw a woman behind the wheel of a Ford Expedition SUV driving erratically at high speed on Thursday night, when she clipped another vehicle and smashed into the median, said Matt Barnes, spokesman for the Thornton, Colo. police. When it hit the median, the SUV went airborne and landed on the family's truck, killing the two adults and three children inside, he said. □

chances.

While facing a brewing budget fight back in Washington, Obama sought to showcase research, development and education areas he has vowed to protect from spending cuts as keys to rejuvenating the sluggish U.S. economy.

“Even as we have to live within our means, we can’t sacrifice investments in our future,” Obama told Intel’s workers. “If we want to win the future, America has to out-build, out-educate, out-innovate and out-hustle the rest of the world.”

Obama, in his State of the Union speech last month, called on Americans to rally around a “Sputnik moment” akin to the space race unleashed when the Soviets launched their first satellite in the 1950s for an increased

focus on technological advances.

The aim is to unleash a wave of innovation to face down fast-growing economic powers like China and India and generate new jobs at home. Obama’s \$3.7 trillion budget proposal for fiscal 2012 released this week seeks to keep funding for research, education and infrastructure intact even as it attempts to rein in deficit spending in some other areas. Republicans say Obama is not going far enough in embracing fiscal restraint and deeper cuts are needed.

The president’s visit to the Hillsboro plant gave him a chance to see first-hand what Intel has billed as the world’s most advanced semiconductor manufacturing site and to draw attention to programs to advance science,

math and engineering studies.

Citing the need to prepare Americans for new high-tech jobs and restore U.S. leadership in higher education, the White House said Obama is pledging government assistance to help train 100,000 science, technology, engineering, and math teachers by the end of the decade.

Obama also used the opportunity to formally announce he had named Intel Chief Executive Paul Otellini to the President’s Council on Jobs and Competitiveness, a new advisory board focused on finding ways to promote economic growth and hiring. The panel will hold its inaugural meeting at the White House on Thursday under the chairmanship of General Electric Co Chief Executive Jeffrey Immelt. □

*In Wisconsin***Democrats could stay away for weeks**

MADISON, Wis. – Democrats on the run in Wisconsin avoided state troopers and threatened to stay in hiding for weeks, potentially paralyzing a state government they no longer control. The party’s stand against balancing the state’s budget by cutting the pay, benefits and collective bargaining rights of public workers is the boldest action yet by Democrats to push back against last fall’s GOP wave. But the dramatic strategy that’s clogged the Capitol with thousands of protesters clashes with one essential truth: Republicans told everyone unions would be a target, and the GOP has more than enough votes to



pass its plans once the Legislature can convene.

The 14 Senate Democrats left the state delaying action in that chamber on a sweeping anti-union bill. Sen.

Jon Erpenbach, who was among those who fled, said Friday that the group was prepared to be away for weeks, although he would like the standoff to end as soon as possible.

“That really, truly is up to the governor,” he told The Associated Press in an interview Friday at a downtown Chicago hotel. □

House GOP takes on health law, EPA

WASHINGTON – In rapid-fire action Friday, the Republican-controlled House voted to strip federal money from President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and from Planned Parenthood and to bar the EPA from issuing global warming regulations.

Upping the ante in the budget faceoff, the Obama administration warned that workers who distribute Social Security benefits might be furloughed if congressional Republicans force cuts in government spending.

In a letter the Social Security Administration sent to its employees' union, agency officials said that while no decision about furloughs had been made, they were possible "given the potential of reduced congressional appropriations."

The letter was circulated by congressional Democrats, who said such cuts could mean shuttered Social Security offices and delayed benefit payments. The letter's distribution by Democrats underscored how the threat of jeopardizing Social Security payments is a potent political weapon.



GOP lawmakers accused Democrats of "irresponsible scare tactics," and said their proposed cuts would not affect benefits or force the Social Security Administration to close offices. Any furloughs "would result only if that decision were made by the

administration," House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp, R-Mich., said in a written statement.

Republicans are pushing a huge spending bill through the House that would impose deep cuts on domestic programs. □

The overall bill is the first step in an increasingly bitter struggle between Democrats and Republicans over how much to cut federal agencies' funding over the second half of the budget year that ends Sept. 30. Current funding runs out March 4 and a temporary spending bill will be needed to avoid a government shutdown. Republicans say the legislation would pare Social Security's administrative budget by \$125 million from current levels plus another \$500 million from a reserve fund. Democrats say the cut would leave the agency with \$1.7 billion less than Obama requested. Much of Friday's focus was on GOP efforts to block implementation of Obama's health care overhaul, which dominated Congress' work in 2009 and was enacted last year. An amendment by Rep. Denny

Rehberg, R-Mont., to block the health care overhaul money was approved by a 239-187 vote.

The GOP has virtually no chance of killing the law because of support for the program from Obama and the Democratic-run Senate, but House Republicans have been trying relentlessly to chip away at it.

"It's a law designed by those who wish to control every health care decision made by health care providers and patients, by every employer and employee, by every family and individual," Rehberg said.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn., said the GOP effort would "put insurance companies back in charge, further demonstrating the majority's special-interest priorities and hypocrisy on job creation and deficit reduction." □

Media seek Loughner case documents, pics

SAN DIEGO – A federal judge will hear arguments on Friday on whether or not search warrant records and federal booking photos of Arizona shooting rampage



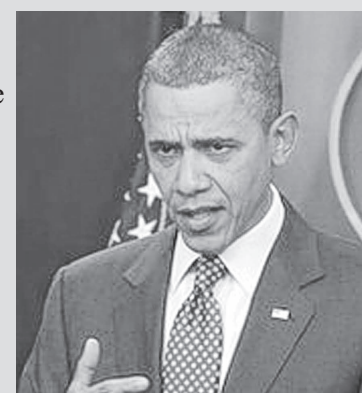
suspect Jared Lee Loughner should be released to the news media.

More than a dozen media outlets, including the Arizona Republic, have asked that the photos and documents be released by the federal government under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. Loughner, a 22-year-old college dropout, is accused of opening fire on U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords and a crowd of her constituents at a political gathering January 8 outside a supermarket in Tucson, Arizona. □

Obama says

Companies can help bottom line & nation

WASHINGTON – Pushing his jobs agenda, President Barack Obama made the case Friday that companies can make money and build up the country at the same time, citing the giant Intel Corp. chip maker as his model of smart investing in education. "We know what works. We know how to succeed," the president told employees here after getting an eye-opening tour of Intel's manufacturing facility. "We know how to do big things. And all across this nation, in places just like this one, we have students and teachers, local leaders and companies who are working together to make it happen." Though Republicans in Washington are balking at Obama's call for more spending on education, Obama said Intel's example has shown that spending on education and worker training is a good investment even in difficult financial



times.

"You're not just a good corporate role model," Obama said. "You're a corporation that understands that investing in education is a good business model. It's good for the bottom line." The president spoke during a West Coast swing designed to highlight his vision of making the U.S. more competitive globally. Before the visit, the White House announced that Obama had picked company CEO Paul Otellini, a sometimes critic, to serve on a presidential competitiveness council. □



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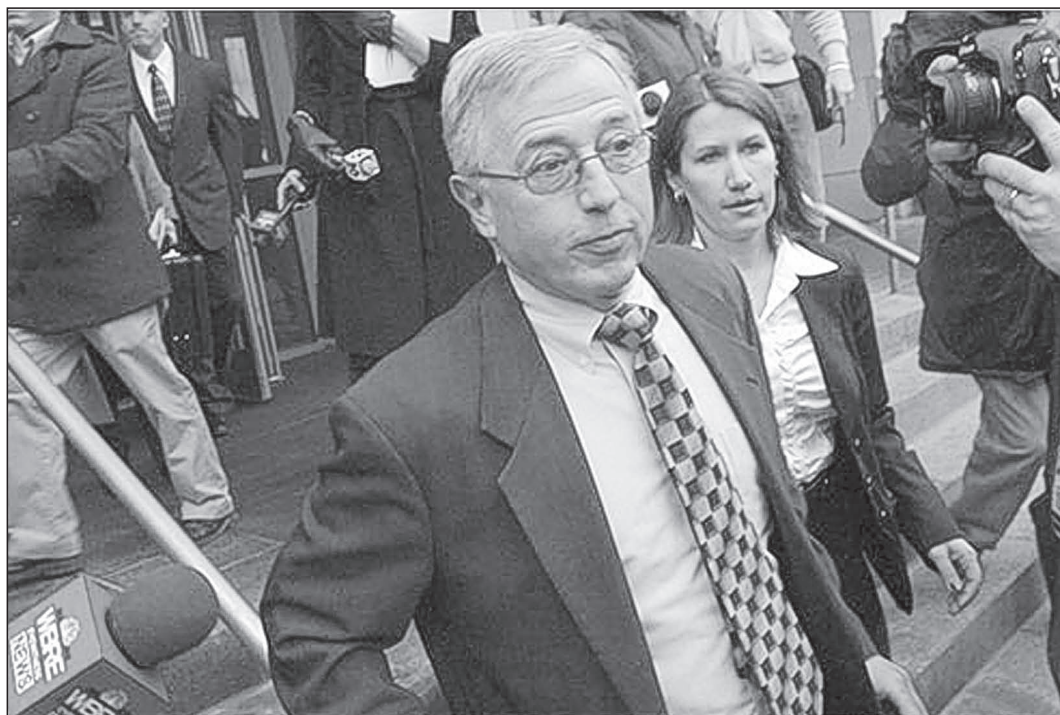
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Former Pennsylvania judge found guilty in kids-for-cash scheme

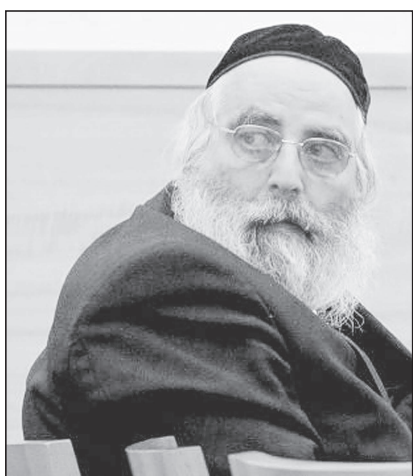


PHILADELPHIA – A federal jury on Friday found a former Pennsylvania judge guilty in a so-called kids-for-cash scheme, in which he took money in exchange for sending juvenile offenders to for-profit detention centers. Former Luzerne County Judge Mark Ciavarella Jr. was accused of taking \$2.8 million in bribes and kickbacks for putting juveniles into detention centers owned by friends. The jury in Scranton, Penn. found him guilty of racketeering, money-laundering conspiracy, fraud and filing false income tax returns. The jury found him not guilty, however, of seven counts of

extortion and 10 counts of bribery. In trial testimony, the former judge, who presided over the Luzerne County Juvenile Court, denied that he accepted money but did admit hiding money from the Internal Revenue Service. Ciavarella, 60, was a judge for 14 years. Prosecutors said he took kickbacks from Robert Mericle, the builder of the PA Child Care detention center near Wilkes Barre, and from Robert Powell, a co-owner of the center. According to the prosecution, Ciavarella threatened to send juveniles somewhere else if he did not get cash from the two men. □

NY rabbi sentenced to prison in hedge fund case

NEW YORK – An Orthodox Jewish rabbi was ordered to serve four years in prison for his conviction in a \$4 million extortion and blackmail of hedge fund billionaire Steven Cohen. Rabbi Milton Balkany, director of a Brooklyn, New York, religious school, was found guilty by a jury after a seven-day trial in Manhattan



federal court last November. Balkany was charged in February 2010 with extortion, blackmail, wire fraud and making false statements in an attempt to force Cohen, founder of the hedge fund SAC Capital, to donate to Balkany's school. The hedge fund has about \$12 billion under management. U.S. District Court Judge Denise Cote handed down the prison sentence on Friday. She could have sentenced Balkany to up to nine years in prison under federal

sentencing guidelines. During the prosecution of the case, claims made by the rabbi about improper trading by another hedge fund, FrontPoint, and one of its top healthcare managers came to light. FrontPoint has said it is cooperating with authorities. Transcripts of telephone calls between Balkany and an investigator were included in Balkany's trial record, and partial recordings were played to the jury. Prosecutors said Cohen did nothing wrong. □

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Rajaratnam's lawyer Dowd - a man for big cases

Insider trading trial of Galleon Group

NEW YORK – For seasoned defense lawyer John Dowd, the insider trading trial of Galleon Group hedge fund founder Raj Rajaratnam is one more big assignment in a long career of high-profile cases.

Dowd, perhaps best known for investigating bets on baseball by Cincinnati Reds great Pete Rose, has over the years represented people from U.S. Senator John McCain to an executive who played a key role in the Enron Corp scandal.

Now he is defending Rajaratnam, the central figure in the broadest Wall Street insider trading case in a generation. A hallmark of the investigation was the U.S. government's use of secret recordings of suspects, tactics usually reserved for organized crime probes or narcotics cases. Prosecutors accuse Rajaratnam of making as much as \$45 million between 2003 and March 2009 on inside tips about Google Inc, eBay Inc, Intel Corp and other companies. He has pleaded not guilty and will stand trial in New York starting on March 8.

The charges announced in October 2009 and accusations against two dozen others shocked the \$1.9 trillion hedge fund world. Rajaratnam's arrest also sent jolts through his native Sri Lanka, initially knocking 5 percent off the stock market.

Dowd, 69, has proved to be a tough defender of his wealthy client, challenging the government's wiretaps and the prosecution's theory of what constitutes



insider trading.

"It is legal to trade stock, and the law does not place a person's liberty at risk simply because he trades in the company's stock while knowing something about the company," the Washington-based lawyer wrote in court papers in early February.

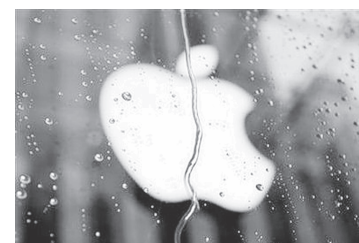
Insider trading cases can be difficult for the government to prove at trial. It must convince a jury that a defendant knew he or she was trading on material, nonpublic information.

Dowd took the case 10 days after the arrest of Rajaratnam, whose Galleon Group managed \$7 billion at its peak.

At more than 6 feet tall and with his bearish physique, former U.S. Marine Corp Captain Dowd has towered over the lectern or defense table in pretrial hearings in Manhattan federal court. His longtime colleague, Terence Lynam, usually sits beside him, and Rajaratnam fills a chair behind them. □

U.S. & EU regulators eye Apple subscription plan

NEW YORK— U.S. and European regulators are keeping tabs on Apple Inc's plans to take a cut of the revenue generated by the sale of online subscriptions through its App Store following concerns voiced by publishers. Some app makers are unhappy with Apple's new plan to take a 30 percent cut on all revenue from online subscriptions. Regulators at the Department of Justice have kicked off an early stage inquiry into Apple's change of policy and are in the process of contacting publishers and also Apple, according to a person familiar with the plans. In Europe, a European Commission spokeswoman said, "We are monitoring market developments carefully." But an official investigation appears unlikely; however, as commissioners believe rivalry in the field is increasing. EU Commissioner Andris Piebalgs in comments to the European Parliament on the issue said it requires,



"that Apple holds a dominant position in the relevant market." "The boundaries of such relevant market(s) are not clear, as the sector is relatively new and evolving." Apple said on Tuesday that publishers can set the price and duration of a subscription. They can also offer subscriptions through their own existing websites, but would be required to offer the same terms to anyone signing up through Apple. This would mean customers who want to sign up for a Netflix Inc video account may have just two choices: They could do so through the Netflix website, in which case Netflix would keep the full fee, or they could subscribe through the applications in their iPhone or iPad which would cost Netflix 30 percent of its fees. □

Firewall architect admits skirting China barriers

SHANGHAI – The architect of China's "Great Firewall" has admitted using software to circumvent the vast system of Internet censorship but only to probe the security of his widely reviled creation.

Fang Binxing said he uses six virtual private networks (VPNs) to scale the government's far-reaching online barrier, whose restrictions on sensitive content extend to banning Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

"I have six VPNs on my home

computer," Fang, 50, said in a rare interview published in Friday's Global Times newspaper.

But Fang, president of the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, said he uses them purely to test the firewall's effectiveness.

"I'm not interested in reading messy information like some of that anti-government stuff," Fang told the English-language state newspaper.

Fang also defended the Great

Firewall, calling it "urgently" needed. He is considered the inventor of the system, which filters out information deemed subversive or politically harmful by China's communist government.

China has sanitised media reports on the Middle East unrest and restricted online discussion of it, apparently fearful it could spark calls for democracy at home.

China has a world-leading 457 million Internet users, according to

official figures, and countless Chinese find ways to access banned content through VPNs.

Such networks get behind the firewall by disguising a user's location, often via a foreign server.

Thousands of Chinese Internet users vented their anger at Fang in December when he opened a microblog account on web portal Sina.com, which operates a tightly managed Twitter clone. Fang closed the account within days. □



Queen Beatrix International Airport highly commended



Queen Beatrix International Airport, Aruba Jo-Anne Arends and Tocumen International Airport, Panama accept their highly commended certificates from Peter von Moltke, CEO, UBM Aviation.

ORANJSTAD - AAA recently attended the 4th annual Routes Americas in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. This event was attended by Ms. Barbara Brown, Business Unit Manager Terminal and Ms. Jo-Anne Arends, Head Airline Marketing, on behalf of the AAA. Routes Americas is where the air service development community from all of the Americas come together. From all the meetings held

with the different airlines AAA can conclude that the airlines currently serving Aruba are very satisfied with Aruba's operation and that the air service industry in general looks promising for 2011. Copa Airlines will be changing their arrival and departure times this summer in order for the flights from AUA to connect even better from their hub in Panama with even more connections to and from South America. AirTran reported daily

service from Atlanta for this coming March and April and Jet Blue will be adding capacity in the winter season 2011/2012. AAA was also advised of a new charter service from Praag in the 4th quarter of 2011 and additional charter service from Canada for the winter season. During this year Queen Beatrix International Airport, Aruba picked up the OAG Airport Marketing Award,

Highly Commended in the category South, Central and Caribbean together with Tocumen International Airport, Panama. The winner in this category was Princess Juliana International Airport, St. Maarten. Other shortlisted airports in this category were Sangster International Airport, Montego Bay Jamaica and International Airport Jorge Chávez, Lima Peru. □

At cozy Arawak Garden Food and Wine Festival tonight

PALM BEACH – Saturday, February 19th should be on your 'things to do' list! It is the date of the monthly Food & Wine Festival, held at the Arawak Garden across from the high rise hotels. The cozy courtyard will be filled with the sounds of live music and there are wine tastings and more. All the restaurants of the Arawak Garden have come up with enticing specials, so come and enjoy! Popular Salt & Pepper offers a Tapas Platter for two with a pitcher of Sangria; there is a choice of six tapas. Tango Restaurant, where one can find the best meat on the island, is serving a Mixed Grill Skewer with a glass of Sangria, while Burger King lures everyone with a free dessert with the purchase of any Value Meal. But this is not all: Fishes & More is going all-out with a three-course menu; Casa Tua follows suit with a Seafood Risotto. Piano Bar Sopranos, the hippest place for drinks, is featuring a fantastic piano player, who is belting out requests. A live cigar roller will be entertaining you as well. Entrance to the Food & Wine Festival at cozy Arawak Garden (across from the Occidental Resort) is free of charge; the festival starts at 5 pm; it is sponsored by Pepia Est, Romar Trading, Compra and Aruba Wine and Dine. □

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Breakfast with a View on Aruba

ORANJESTAD - Breakfast has never been so good as at CILO City Lounge, where the stunning marina view is competing with your most important meal of the day: breakfast. Choose between an English, American or Dutch breakfast or order a sandwich and enjoy the comings and going on the water right in front of you. An English breakfast consists of a fried egg, toast, beans in tomato sauce and sausages, while an American breakfast is a feast of scrambled eggs, sausages, bacon, hash browns, yoghurt and fresh fruit. A Dutch breakfast is toast with a boiled egg and slices of ham and cheese and jelly. Seating at CILO's is either on the spacious terrace, where



the awakening trade wind ruffles your hair and the sounds of the departing fishing boats mingle with the conversations of the guests around you or inside, where one can enjoy a more quiet, air-conditioned, cool atmosphere. Inside there is a reading corner with lots of magazines and newspapers, among them De Telegraaf, a popular Dutch tabloid. You won't be the first one to have discovered CILO at breakfast time: you will probably join quite a lot of fellow-guests. But no problem: the expert staff will seat you and treat you right. CILO City Lounge is open from 7 am until 1 am, with an excellent lunch and dinner menu and live entertainment every evening of the week. □

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Caribbean Palm Restaurant opens with a splash



PALM BEACH - The Caribbean Palm Restaurant is located at the premises of the luxurious "Caribbean

Cloudy is on the look-out for friends and family



We would like to introduce Cloudy to you, one of the donkeys living at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. The volunteers received a phone call from people in Noord that a donkey was spotted in the vicinity of Rancho Notorious. Noord is an especially dangerous region on the island, and a roaming donkey can cause a lot of trouble for traffic, not to mention endanger itself. Catching Cloudy was not much of a problem: she was lured into a garden and locked into a shed. Normally catching a wild donkey is much more difficult, as they are very timid and can run really fast, much faster than humans. Once at the shelter, Cloudy proved to be pregnant, but she lost her baby after only six months. Since her arrival she has been fast friends with Azzy and Rambo: they can always be found together, having a whale of a time.

Cloudy has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way she can be recognized and all her medical information is on it. The donkeys at the

sanctuary are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers try to cover the cost through organizing all kinds of activities and by selling nice souvenirs in the store. Fortunately there are visitors who adopt a donkey now and then, who donate money or who buy something in the store.

They help keep the sanctuary afloat that way. The volunteers are now looking for people who wish to adopt Cloudy. She will stay at the sanctuary, of course; the only thing that is needed is that AWG. 30,- per month is paid for her keep. In this way you help support this wonderful donkey as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website. The sanctuary is open on weekdays from 9 – 4 pm and in the weekends from 10 – 3 pm; visitors are very welcome. The sanctuary is also a great place to drink cup of coffee, an ice cream or a juice.

Please call the Donkey Sanctuary at 595-2933 and become Cloudy's new family member; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website www.arubadonkey.org or deposit a donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025. Please help! □

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Food, Wine and Fun at the monthly Aruba Culinary Festival

EAGLE BEACH - The Aruba Culinary Festival, an exciting taste of Aruba and cultural experience organized by the Aruba Gastronomic Association and Divi Resorts, is a fun and flavorful event that you won't want to miss. On Monday night, February 7, at the scenic outdoor plaza of Divi Links, more than 400 locals and tourists were wowed by this unique evening under the stars. The eclectic menu included

abundant, exquisitely prepared signature dishes courtesy of restaurants of the Aruba Gastronomic Association and Divi Resorts. Amazonia's perfectly-cooked chicken wings, ribs and tenderloin were served right off the grill; Aqua Grill's tasty cold tuna chilli was served with a green salad and crisps. Driftwood's fresh catch of the day in Creole sauce, caught by the owner himself, was accompanied by

pan bati (local corn bread).

The Manchebo Beach Resort was represented by its two fine restaurants; beef stroganoff, a favorite with diners at the French Steak House, was served with homemade fettuccine prepared by Giorgio's.

Gasparito prepared two versions of the traditional Aruban dish of keshi yena, one with seafood and the other with chicken. Divi Resorts delighted guests with seafood paella courtesy of Mulligan's and Windows on Aruba's orange and vanilla mousse. La Trattoria El Faro Blanco was applauded for its succulent rack of lamb with roasted potato. The Old Man and the Sea prepared delicious sautéed diced oysters, shrimp and fish on the half shell topped with hollandaise sauce.

The wine was flowing courtesy of Arion Wine Company, enjoyed by appreciative wine lovers and perfectly accompanying the menu. Erik van den Hengel, Food & Beverage



Director, Divi Resorts, did an awesome job in working with his staff to create the perfect festival venue. The live music of Ernesto Ferro lent the perfect touch,

applauded by all the guests. Don't miss the next edition of the monthly Aruba Culinary Festival to take place on March 14 – same time, same place. □

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Mideast protests at a glance

Uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia spread in the region

A summary of Friday's developments in the Arab world, as instability and anti-government protests inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia spread in the region.

BAHRAIN:

Soldiers open fire as thousands stream toward the landmark square at the center of anti-government protests that erupted earlier this week. Hospital officials say at least 50 people are injured, some with gunshot wounds. The White House expresses "strong displeasure" about the rising tensions in Bahrain, a key U.S. ally in the Gulf. The protesters want the ruling Sunni Muslim monarchy to give up its control over top government posts and all critical decisions. Shiite Muslims make up 70 percent of Bahrain's 500,000 citizens but say they face systematic discrimination and poverty and are effectively blocked from key roles in public service and the military.

LIBYA: A website linked to a son of longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi says the national congress has halted its session indefinitely and will take steps to reform the government when it reconvenes. In the city of Benghazi, protesters set fire to government buildings and police stations. The Gadhafi-linked website says about 1,000 inmates at Benghazi prison attack guards and escape. Three of the inmates are killed in the violence. In Beyida, witnesses say



protesters have forced out government security forces and demolished a military air base runway. Dozens of demonstrators have been killed since protests erupted earlier in the week. Libya is oil-rich, but an estimated one-third of its people live in poverty. The protesters demand the resignation of Gadhafi, who has ruled for more than 40 years. Gadhafi has met with tribal leaders and taken other steps to try to defuse public anger. **YEMEN:** Anti-government demonstrators clash with supporters of Yemen's

longtime ruler and riot police in the capital of Sanaa during the ninth straight day of protests. In the city of Taiz, what appears to be a hand grenade is thrown at a group of protesters, seriously wounding at least 48 people in the blast and the stampede that follows. Protesters set cars, a local government building and a police warehouse ablaze in the port city of Aden and three demonstrators are killed. Protesters demand the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a U.S. ally, who has ruled the Arab world's poorest nation for 32 years. The demonstrators'

main grievances are poverty and official corruption. Saleh's promises not to run for re-election in 2013 or to set up his son as an heir have failed to quell the anger. **EGYPT:** Hundreds of thousands of flag-waving Egyptians pack into Cairo's central Tahrir Square in the first major rally since the fall of longtime leader Hosni Mubarak a week ago. They celebrate his ouster and press Egypt's new military rulers to uproot the rest of his regime and steer the country toward reform. Organizers say they want the military to take greater action against ex-Mubarak regime figures who

still hold considerable power. The country's new military rulers say they need to be able to ensure security in order to move ahead with reforms.

JORDAN: Clashes erupt in the capital, Amman, between about 200 government supporters and about 2,000 protesters. Eight people are injured in the first violence in nearly two months of weekly protests. Demonstrators say they were attacked with batons, stones and pipes. Protesters seek a constitutional monarchy in which the prime minister is elected. Currently, parliament is elected, but King Abdullah II rules by decree and retains the power to appoint and dismiss prime ministers and to dissolve parliament. Demonstrators also protest against rising prices and high unemployment.

SAUDI ARABIA: A new party in Saudi Arabia says authorities detained its founding members earlier this week and told them they must withdraw demands for political reform as a condition for their release. The Umma Islamic Party says the detainees refused to sign the pledge. Political activity in oil-rich Saudi Arabia, which follows strict Islamic rule, is severely restricted and all power rests in the hands of the ruling family. The Umma Islamic Party wants the kingdom's rulers to start a dialogue on reform, including improving the status of women. □

Republican favorite, not running. Right?



WASHINGTON, DC – Everyone is hoping Chris Christie will run for president in 2012--everyone meaning political reporters who like to have interesting people to write about and think Republican frontrunner Mitt Romney is just a huge yawn. Christie visited the American Enterprise Institute and gave an extremely well-reviewed speech in which he denied presidential aspirations, The New York Times' Jeff Zeleny writes, while maybe testing out whether Americans outside New Jersey can handle his pugnacious style. Example: he made a suicide joke.

Christie said that national leaders have to do big things, and that President Obama's proposals for high-speed rail and Internet were political "candy," a dodging of critical issues like the budget deficit and entitlements. "We're on a path to ruin," Christie said. "You can't fix these problems if you don't talk about them." He also said that though he sees an opportunity to run, he knows he's not ready yet. "Apparently, I actually have to commit suicide to convince people I'm not running," Christie said. Even his denials of presidential aspirations are being considered signs of his eligibility. Politico's Kendra Marr reports that political analysts found Christie's admission that he wasn't ready "powerful" and a impressively transparent. □

Endangered Women

Yes, Lara Logan was sexually assaulted and badly beaten. Yes, that is a terrible thing. She is, however, reported to be in "remarkably good spirits." Indeed. She is alive, not beheaded, not held hostage, not any number of terrible things. Being raped is bad, but it isn't the worst thing. Not getting out alive is the worst thing. In the 30 years since I first dared raise the issue as a young Senate staffer, I cannot begin to count the number of times that people have tried to explain to me that women cannot be on the front lines because this country could not tolerate the prospect of our women being sexually assaulted by the other side. "You gotta be kidding," I was told by some otherwise very liberal people. Look at the polls. The selective service legislation doesn't even require women to register. The man who sued to try to get it overturned on that basis lost; discrimination justified. No Lara Logans.



But I never got it. I know how bad rape is. But what I don't know is why the possibility, and sometimes the reality, that a woman could be raped should count for more than the fact that she is willing, able and oftentimes eager to face danger. I don't know why getting killed isn't the real thing everybody has to face. And I then wonder whether it is something more than women being vulnerable to rape that creates a double standard in law and in fact. Being CBS' chief foreign correspondent, in this world, is a dangerous job. Logan has two small children. When I had two small children, I was nervous about flying. □

Is it a gain for Gay Rights?

Civil unions come to Facebook

WASHINGTON, DC – Until this week, Facebook users in a civil union or domestic partnership faced a conundrum when filling out their profile's relationship status: none of the options single, in a relationship, engaged, married, it's complicated, in an open relationship, widowed, separated, and divorced--entirely applied to them. So, Facebook has added "in a civil union" and "in a domestic partnership" to its relationship status options after consulting with Facebook's Network of Support, which includes gay rights groups. Here's how people are taking the news: Bracing for a Backlash Molly McHugh at Digital Trends predicts that there will be "outraged traditionalists who don't approve of these relationships anywhere, including on Facebook" but adds that Facebook's



recognition could also "spur communication and acceptance." Why Is the Change Only in Select Countries? "Before we rush to name Facebook a vanguard of social change," ZDNet's Daniel Kennedy says, we should recognize that the social networking site is only rolling out the new status options in the U.S., Canada, France, the U.K., and Australia. The list doesn't fully correspond with the list of countries that have legally recognized non-traditional relationships, he points out, and "the 15,000,000 Facebook users in the Middle East and Northern Africa, where homosexuality is

largely a crime with penalties ranging from jail time to the death penalty, will not be seeing this option." A Milestone, But the Goal's Still Gay Marriage The Human Rights Campaign's Michael Cole-Schwartz says the move is one more sign of Facebook's inclusiveness but adds that all websites must continue to combat cyberbullying. Jarrett Barrios, president of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, hopes the change will remind people that couples in civil unions and domestic partnerships "still lack the same legal recognition and protections associated with marriage." □

Internet's week of overreaction

WASHINGTON, DC – The very innovations that have made the Internet revolutionary instant publishing, effortless sharing, vibrant communities of like-minded people that transcend geographic boundaries--have also made the web a place where judgments are swiftly rendered and reinforced, and provocation begets mass damnation. This week, those who write for the web have meditated after confronting its downside. Earlier in the week, journalist Nir Rosen was swallowed by a tsunami of Internet outrage when he tweeted that people shouldn't sympathize with Lara Logan, the CBS reporter who was sexually assaulted by a Cairo mob, because she was a "war monger." After resigning his fellowship at New York University, Rosen has taken to Salon to apologize for his words and explain what he intended to say. Rosen says that when he composed his



tweets he "didn't think the banter between myself and a couple of other guys would amount to anything." But, of course, that's not how Twitter works, which leads Rosen to reflect on the web dynamics that just cost him his job: It's a bizarre, voyeuristic Internet culture and everybody in the mob is looking to get in on the next fight first, to be at the center of the thing that's happening, even if there's nothing really there. Which might explain the thousands of stupid e-mails and tweets I have received from the mob wanting to get a punch in. But given that I have been condemned for seeming to condone sexual assault, it's surprising how many hundreds (no exaggeration)

of people have e-mailed me wishing that I or people close to me will be sexually assaulted. There's probably some larger lesson about social media to be drawn here, and how its immediacy can be great in its power to connect us, but also a liability because something blurted out and not meant to be serious acquires a greater power. Then, an offensive joke can be seen as an ideological manifesto, gallows humor can be seen as a serious support for sexual assault. I only wish this had been apparent to me before I hit enter. Rosen isn't alone in thinking the Internet's quick-draw culture should be reformed. Michelle Goldberg at The Daily Beast marvels at how Rosen, "in a matter of minutes went from joking about Lara Logan's assault in Egypt, to digging in and defending himself, to self-justifying semi-apology, to abject regret." □

Libyan troops attempt to put down unrest in east

TRIPOLI – Thousands of people protested in Libya's second city of Benghazi on Friday over a security crackdown that has killed dozens of people but failed to halt the worst unrest of Muammar Gaddafi's four decades in power. Opposition activists said protesters were fighting troops for control of the nearby town of Al Bayda, scene of some of the worst violence over the past two days, where townspeople said they were burying 14 people who were killed in earlier clashes.

Residents said that by evening the streets were calm but there were conflicting accounts about whether opposition activists or security forces were in control of the town. Protests fired by uprisings in Tunis and Egypt have produced unprecedented scenes in a country tightly controlled by Gaddafi. By contrast to Egypt, where protests forced President Hosni Mubarak from power, international media access is limited. The privately-owned Quryna newspaper said that

in Benghazi, focal point of demonstrations against Gaddafi, thousands of residents gathered for the funeral processions of the 14 protesters killed in clashes there. Thousands more gathered in front of Benghazi court building. "The funeral procession included thousands of citizens, and thousands of people in front of the Benghazi court said prayers for the victims," said the paper, which is based in Benghazi. The New York-based rights group Human Rights Watch said that according to its sources inside Libya, security forces had killed at least 24 people over the past two days. Exile groups have given much higher tolls which



could not be confirmed. U.S. President Barack Obama said he was "deeply concerned" about reports of violence from Bahrain, a close U.S. ally, Libya and Yemen and urged governments to show restraint in dealing with

protesters. Quryna newspaper said security forces overnight fired live bullets at protesters, killing 14 of them. It published photographs of several people lying on hospital stretchers with bloodstained bandages. □

Egyptians challenge army to keep transition promise



CAIRO – Millions took to the streets to celebrate the new Egypt on Friday, reminding military rulers to keep their promise of a swift transition to civilian rule after people power swept away autocrat Hosni Mubarak in just 18 days. On an emotional day that will become a landmark in modern Egyptian history and a memorial to the 365 people who died in the uprising, many said they would carefully guard newly-won promises from the military of elections within six months. "This is a serious message to

the military," said Mohamed el-Said, 28, who traveled to Cairo from Port Said, gesturing to the colorful sea of people from all walks of life around him who rallied to mark the stepping down of Mubarak a week ago. "After today, it will be more than obvious to them that if they don't protect the revolution and respond to the people's demands, the next time people go down to Tahrir won't be to celebrate victory, but they will bring their blankets with them like before," he told in Tahrir (Liberation) Square. □



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Qaradawi tells Tahrir masses

Egypt revolution unfinished

CAIRO - Yusuf al-Qaradawi, a leading Egyptian Islamic theologian popularized by Al Jazeera, returned to Cairo today to deliver a stirring but overtly political sermon, calling on Egyptians to preserve national unity as they press for democratic progress. "Don't let anyone steal this revolution from you those hypocrites who will put on a new face that suits them," he said, speaking to at least



200,000 who gathered for Friday prayers in Tahrir Square, the epicenter of Egypt's uprising. "The revolution isn't over. It has just started to build Egypt guard your revolution." The massive turnout and Mr. Qaradawi's warning that the revolution is not complete demonstrate that if the military drags its feet on reform, another uprising could begin. And while his sermon was nonsectarian and broadly political, the turnout was also a reminder that political Islam is likely to play a larger role in Egypt than it has for decades. □

'Friday of Rage' across Yemen

SANAA, Yemen – Anti-government demonstrators clashed with supporters of Yemen's longtime ruler and riot police, who fired tear gas and gunshots to disperse the crowd on what organizers called a nationwide "Friday of Rage." Three people were killed by police in the port of Aden and 48 were wounded in the southern city of Taiz when someone threw what appeared to be a hand grenade into a crowd, witnesses said. It was the ninth straight day of protests in Yemen inspired by uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia. Demonstrators are calling for the ouster of President Ali Abdullah Saleh a key U.S. ally in fighting

al-Qaida terrorists who has ruled the country for 32 years. U.S. President Barack Obama condemned the reported violence in response to protests in Yemen, as well as Bahrain and Libya, he urged those governments to respect the rights of peacefully demonstrating citizens, and he expressed condolences to the families of those killed. The U.S. Embassy in Sanaa said it has seen "a disturbing rise in the number and violence of attacks against Yemeni citizens" at peaceful protests. It added that diplomats also saw reports of Yemen government officials "present during these attacks." □

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In Bahrain

Soldiers open fire on protestors

MANAMA, Bahrain – Soldiers opened fire Friday on thousands of protestors defying a government ban and streaming toward the landmark square that had been the symbolic center of the uprising to break the political grip of the Gulf nation's leaders. Officials at the main Salmaniya hospital said at least 50 people were injured, some with gunshot wounds. Some doctors and medics on emergency medical teams were in tears as they tended to the wounded. X-rays showed bullets still lodged inside victims. "This is a war," said Dr. Bassem Deif, an orthopedic



surgeon examining people with bullet-shattered bones. Health ministry officials said in a statement that seven people were critically injured. Protesters described a chaotic scene of tear gas clouds, bullets coming from many directions and people slipping in pools of blood as they sought cover. Some

claimed the gunfire came from either helicopters or sniper nests, a day after riot police swept through the protest encampment in Pearl Square, killing at least five people and razing the tents and makeshift shelters that were inspired by the demonstrators in Cairo's Tahrir Square. An Associated Press cameraman saw army units shooting anti-aircraft weapons, fitted on top of armored personnel carriers, above the protesters, in apparent warning shots and attempts to drive them back from security cordons about 200 yards (200 meters) from the square. □

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Scandal-hit Berlusconi attends event with Vatican



ROME – An annual celebration of the 1929 treaty that governs relations between Italy and the Vatican took an awkward turn Friday, as Premier Silvio Berlusconi, engulfed in a prostitution scandal, attended a ceremony with the Vatican's No 2. official.

Berlusconi said the encounter with Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone had been "great, as

always," but Bertone slipped out a side door and declined to speak with reporters as he has done in years past. Berlusconi has come under criticism from the Catholic Church over the scandal, which centers on his alleged encounters with a 17-year-old Moroccan girl.

The 74-year-old leader was indicted this week on charges he paid for sex with the girl,

and then abused his influence to cover it up. Berlusconi denies the charges. Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, has said the Vatican was concerned about the scandal and was following its developments attentively. He has called for a "more robust morality, a sense of justice and legality" among everyone, particularly those in public office.

Bertone was seated next to Berlusconi during the closed-door meeting inside Italy's embassy to the Vatican, but it wasn't clear if they spoke.

Berlusconi was only seen chatting with Cardinal Angelo Bagnasco, head of the Italian Bishops Conference, who has been equally critical of the scandal.

President Giorgio Napolitano, who also attended, said relations remained good. □

Libyan national congress halts session

CAIRO – Protesters battled with security forces for control of neighborhoods Friday in eastern Libya where dozens have reportedly been killed in two days of clashes, as a leadership congress controlled by Moammar Gadhafi pledged a change in government administrators, trying to ease demonstrations demanding the longtime

leader's ouster. Residents in the eastern city of Beyida said security reinforcements had been bused in, including what they said were foreign African mercenaries, to put down protesters who burned police stations. But local police, who belong to the same tribe as the residents, were

battling alongside protesters against security forces, two witnesses in the city told The Associated Press. A hospital official in Beyida said Friday that the bodies of at least 23 protesters slain over the past 48 hours were at his facility, which was treating about 500 wounded some in the parking lot for lack of beds. □

In India Police broaden graft probe



NEW DELHI – Indian police raided a television station linked to the government on Friday, as a widening investigation into a corruption scandal threatened the coalition and worried investors sent blue-chip stocks lower.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is under growing pressure over his role in the illicit sale of mobile phone licenses, although he has said he would not resign, blaming the debacle on his sacked telecommunications minister, who is now under arrest. The blue-chip Sensex index turned negative after news of the raid, closing 1.6 percent lower. Investors are concerned the deepening probe will raise the possibility

of license revocation, which would damage key telecoms firms.

Mumbai is the world's worst performing major stock market this year, with losses of 11 percent.

"Raids have been carried out today on the offices of Kalaingar TV in connection with the 2G scam," said a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) official, who declined to be named. The raids followed allegations that companies linked to Swan Telecom, under investigation in the sale of 2G mobile licenses, had paid \$47 million to the channel owned by the family that runs the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party. □

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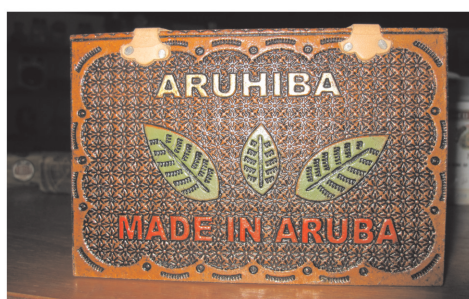
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USA's Ligety wins giant slalom title at worlds

Ted Ligety of the US celebrates with the US flag after winning the gold medal in the men's giant slalom, at the Alpine World Skiing Championships in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Friday, Feb.18, 2011.

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Saturday, February 19, 2011



NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell arrives for the first negotiating session involving a federal mediator, Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, in Washington.

Associated Press
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Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant smiles while listening to a question from a reporter during media availability for the NBA All Star basketball game in Los Angeles, Friday, Feb. 18, 2011.

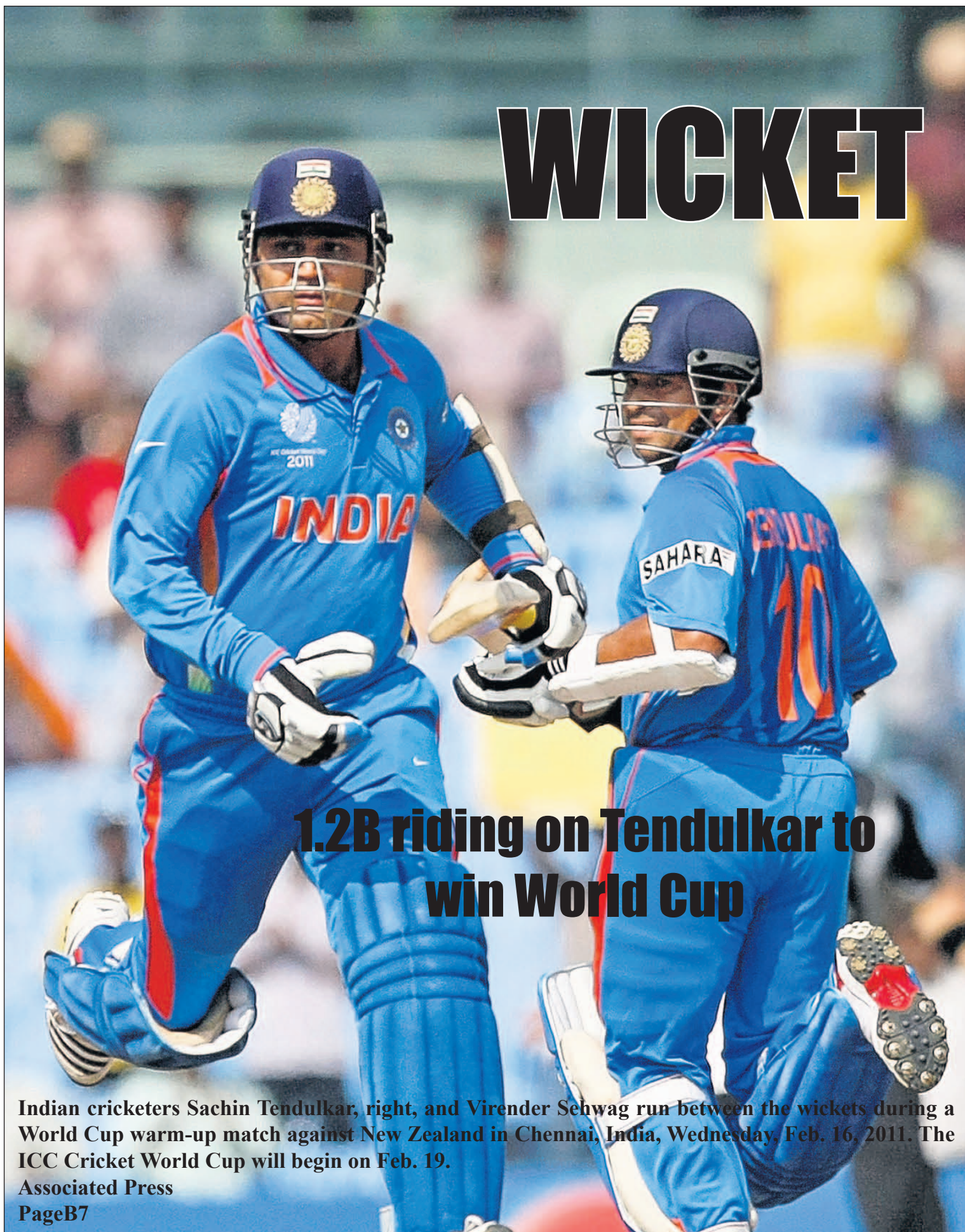
Associated Press

Celtics, Heat go to Kobe's house for All-Star game

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant needed only a quick survey of the NBA All-Star teams for the names to jump out at him. "We're playing the Celtics and the Heat," he said. "And the Hawks."

Forget that last one.

Continued on page 5



Indian cricketers Sachin Tendulkar, right, and Virender Sehwag run between the wickets during a World Cup warm-up match against New Zealand in Chennai, India, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011. The ICC Cricket World Cup will begin on Feb. 19.

Associated Press
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NFL, union hold first session with federal mediator



NFL Players Association (NFLPA) Executive Director DeMaurice Smith, second from left, flanked by Pittsburgh Steelers Charlie Batch, left, NFLPA spokesman George Atallah, second from right, and others, arrive for the first negotiating session involving a federal mediator, Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, in Washington. Associated Press

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Pro Football Writer
WASHINGTON – The contentious NFL labor negotiations went in front of a federal mediator Friday, two weeks before owners

could impose a lockout on players and threaten the 2011 season.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, players' union executive director DeMaurice Smith and their

bargaining teams arrived at the Washington office of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service shortly before 11 a.m. It was not known how long the meeting would last.

Goodell was accompanied by NFL outside counsel Bob Batterman and the league's lead labor negotiator, Jeff Pash. No team owners were seen entering the building. About 15 minutes after Goodell showed up, Smith walked in, joined by union lawyer Richard Berthelsen, Pittsburgh Steelers backup quarterback Charlie Batch and former player Jim McFarland, a member of the NFL Players Association's executive committee.

Goodell and Smith declined comment on their way into the meeting with George H. Cohen, the director of the FMCS, an independent U.S. government agency.

"We're going to participate

fully, and we look forward to working with Mr. Cohen," Pash told The Associated Press. Asked what progress he expects to come from mediation, Pash replied: "We don't know."

NFLPA spokesman George Atallah said: "We're not going to make any comments or talk about what happens in today's negotiating session." More than two hours later, Atallah and NFL spokesman Greg Aiello tweeted a joint statement saying the mediation process has begun and both sides agreed to Cohen's request not to make any public comment. Cohen announced Thursday that both sides had agreed to have him participate in talks. Mediation is not binding.

The current collective bargaining agreement expires at the end of the day March 3, and the union has said it expects a lockout to come as soon as the next day.

News of the start of mediation could be a positive sign after several months of infrequent negotiations.

The league and union went more than two months without holding any formal bargaining sessions, until a meeting Feb. 5, the day before the Super Bowl. The sides met again once last week but called off a second meeting that had been scheduled for the following day. The most recent CBA was signed in 2006, but owners exercised an opt-out clause in 2008.

The biggest issue separating the sides is how to divide about \$9 billion in annual revenues. Among the other significant points in negotiations: the owners' push to expand the regular season from 16 games to 18 while reducing the preseason by two games; a rookie wage scale; and benefits for retired players. □

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Datsyuk scores 2, Red Wings beat Lightning 6-2

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — Pavel Datsyuk scored twice, and Danny Cleary had a goal and two assists as the Detroit Red Wings beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 6-2 on Thursday.

NHL Roundup

Niklas Kronwall, Justin Abdelkader and Darren Helm also scored for the Red Wings, who have won three in a row and seven of 11. Jimmy Howard made 38 saves. Tampa Bay got goals from Victor Hedman and Steve Downie. The Lightning are 5-3-1 during a 12-game homestand. It was the first time that new

Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman faced his old team. He played 22 seasons before spending five more as a vice president with Detroit. **Predators 3, Canucks 1** At Nashville, Tennessee, Nick Spaling and Mike Fisher scored 49 seconds apart in the second period as Nashville beat Vancouver for its third victory in four games. Martin Erat had a goal and an assist, and Fisher's goal was his first since he was traded to Nashville a week ago. Pekka Rinne stopped 35 shots, improving to 15-2-1 when his teammates score at least three goals. Nashville evened the season series at a game apiece.

Vancouver, which leads the West, remained the NHL's top team with 83 points. Daniel Sedin scored a power-play goal for the Canucks, who were playing their third game in four nights. Kevin Bieksa was a scratch due to a broken bone in his left foot, their sixth defensemen out due to injury. **Rangers 4, Kings 3, SO** At New York, Henrik Lundqvist knocked Anze Kopitar's shootout shot over the net to earn his 200th NHL win and give the Rangers a victory over Los Angeles. Erik Christensen and Mats Zuccarello scored on the Rangers' first two shootout attempts before Jarret Stoll



Detroit Red Wings center Pavel Datsyuk, left, of Russia, starts the break after getting past Tampa Bay Lightning left winger Sean Bergenheim, of Finland, during the third period of an NHL hockey game in Tampa, Fla., Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011.

Associated Press

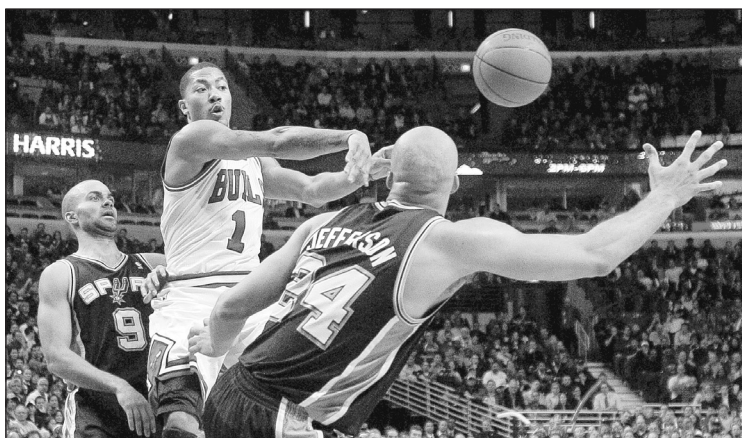
got a shot past Lundqvist to send the tiebreaker into a third round. Jonathan Bernier poke-checked the puck off Wojtek Wolski's stick to keep the Kings alive, but Lundqvist turned aside Kopitar to give New York its second straight win after six consecutive losses. Ryan Callahan had a goal and assist, and Marian Gaborik

and Artem Anisimov both scored in the third for New York.

In other NHL games it was N.Y. Rangers 4, Los Angeles 3, SO; Boston 6, N.Y. Islanders 3; Detroit 6, Tampa Bay 2; Nashville 3, Vancouver 1; Edmonton 4, Montreal 1; Phoenix 4, Atlanta 3; and San Jose 3, Washington 2.

Rose leads Bulls past Spurs 109-99

CHICAGO (AP) — Derrick Rose had a career-high 42 points as the Chicago Bulls headed into the All-Star break with an impressive 109-99 victory over the NBA-leading San Antonio Spurs on Thursday.



Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose, center, passes past the outstretched hand of San Antonio Spurs forward Richard Jefferson as Spurs' Tony Parker, left, watches during the second half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, in Chicago.

Associated Press

NBA Roundup

Luol Deng had 19 points and Carlos Boozer finished with 15 for Chicago, which shot 54 percent in its fourth consecutive win. The Bulls improved to 38-16 after winning 41 games last season. Once again hearing "M-V-P! M-V-P!" chants, Rose was at his best when San Antonio challenged Chicago in the fourth quarter. He had 13 points in the final period,

answering Spurs baskets with acrobatic drives and long jumpers. He also finished with eight assists and five rebounds. Tony Parker scored 26 points and All-Star Manu Ginobili added 16 for San Antonio, which had won six of seven.

Reserve Gary Neal made four 3-pointers and finished with 16 points. **Mavericks 112, Suns 106** At Phoenix, Dirk Nowitzki scored 35 points to lead Dallas past Phoenix and to its 13th victory in 14 games.

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Ted Ligety wins giant slalom title at worlds



Ted Ligety of the U.S. celebrates on the podium after winning the gold medal in the men's giant slalom, at the Alpine World Skiing Championships in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, Friday, Feb. 18, 2011.

Associated Press

NESHA STARCEVIC
AP Sports Writer
GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany (AP) — Ted Ligety produced a clean second run in worsening conditions and gave the United States its first gold medal of the world championships on Friday when he won the giant slalom title.
Ligety jumped from fourth

to first, making virtually no mistakes on a course softened by mild weather, to edge Cyprien Richard of France by .08 seconds.
“It was nerve-wrecking for sure,” Ligety said. “This slope is difficult, especially in these conditions. I thought I’d lost it. I feel so lucky to come back and win it.”
Richard jumped from seventh after the first run.

“I’m savoring it even more at 32,” he said. “I know why I’m here, I know where I’ve come from.”

“I thought after the first run that I could do it, I had nothing to lose,” Richard said. He won the gold with France in the team event. Philipp Schoerghofer of Austria, second after the first run, dropped one back to take the bronze, .43 seconds behind. Ligety was timed in a combined 2 minutes, 10.56 seconds for the two runs.
“The second run was brutal,” Schoerghofer said. “Ligety earned it. I was so nervous, I am glad it’s over.”

First-run leader Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway had to settle for fourth, while Ivica Kostelic of Croatia, the overall World Cup leader, fell from third into a tie for 13th.
“It was a little soft for me on the flats. I couldn’t carry the speed from the first run,” said Svindal, the super-combined champion and the Olympic bronze medalist in the giant slalom.

Ligety has won three of five giant slalom races on the World Cup circuit this season and was considered a top medal prospect. The American was Olympic champion in the combined in 2006, and won the bronze

medal in the giant slalom at the worlds two years ago. Ligety has won the giant slalom World Cup title twice. The start was moved lower on the Kandahar slope and the course shortened by nine gates to avoid fog at higher elevation.
Bode Miller of the United States had the fastest second run but finished 12th after an error-filled first heat. He will skip Sunday’s slalom, the final race of the two-week championships.

Miller was 1.93 seconds off the pace in the first heat after slipping on soft snow and losing speed.

“I was skiing aggressive, and I didn’t think I was taking overly too much risk,” Miller said after the first run. “The place where I (messed) up was on the flats and softer snow. The snow is softening up by the minute now and I went out on the soft (stuff) and couldn’t get it to come around and just fell over. When you fall over there you lose a lot of time.”

Ligety was the first racer out in the opening heat, but had to deal with a rapidly deteriorating course in the second run, when the top 30 start in reverse order. Mild conditions have softened the course over the past few days. The U.S. team also has two silver medals so far at the championships — Lindsey

Vonn in the downhill and Julia Mancuso in the super-G. Kostelic went home for a brief vacation after winning the bronze medal in the opening event, the super-G, and looked set to snatch another medal when he finished third in the first run. But he was too cautious in the second heat and was left empty-handed.

“I didn’t ski well. This shorter distance between the gates, that’s not my game,” Kostelic said.

Kostelic’s primary target for the season is winning his first overall World Cup title. The vacation, he said, was “important for later.”

“We saved the body. The back and the knee (problems) are always there. It was good to save all this for later. We’ll see at the finish of the World Cup. I will need some strength for the overall,” Kostelic said.

Kjetil Jansrud of Norway, Olympic silver medalist, was fifth and Thomas Fanara of France sixth.

Carlo Janka, the defending world and reigning Olympic giant slalom champion, was seventh. Janka won the giant slalom race on the same hill at the World Cup finals last season and collected the overall title, but the Swiss has been struggling with irregular heart beat problems all season. □

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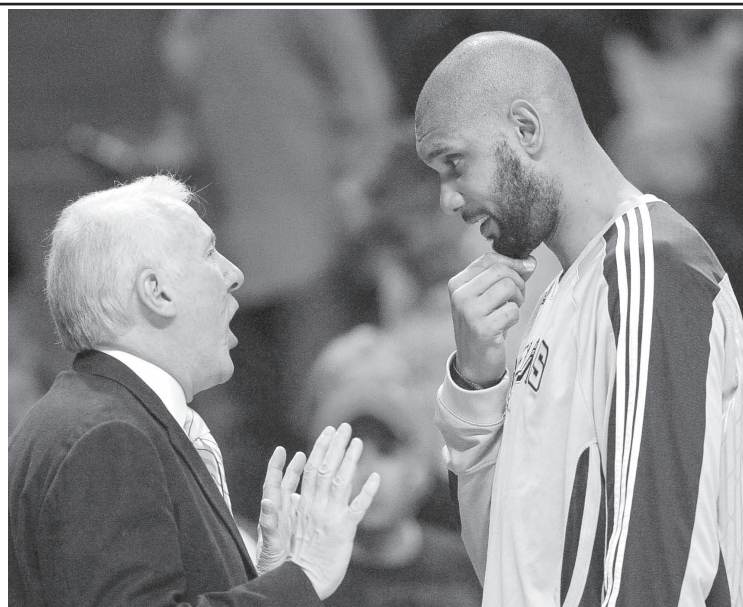
Popovich says Duncan will start All-Star game

By JAY COHEN
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO – The Western Conference needs a starting center for the All-Star game in Los Angeles, and Gregg Popovich says he knows the perfect person for the job. The San Antonio coach selected Spurs star Tim Duncan to replace Yao Ming in the lineup for Sunday's game at Staples Center, staying in his own locker room instead of picking Clippers rookie Blake Griffin

playing in his home arena or Timberwolves double-double machine Kevin Love. "I think it's totally appropriate and obvious that he should be the starter," Popovich said before the Spurs' 109-99 loss at Chicago on Thursday night. "I don't have any problem with it." Griffin, Love and Mavericks star Dirk Nowitzki all have better numbers than Duncan, who is averaging a career-low 13.4 points and 9.2 rebounds. But San Antonio (46-10) has

the NBA's best record and the Spurs are closely monitoring the 34-year-old Duncan's minutes, a factor in the lower averages. Duncan didn't know about his 12th consecutive All-Star start until he was asked about it after he had 14 points and nine boards against Chicago. "I didn't expect to be there this year and I definitely didn't expect to start, so definitely a great honor," he said. "I don't know, year-in and year-out I continue to be



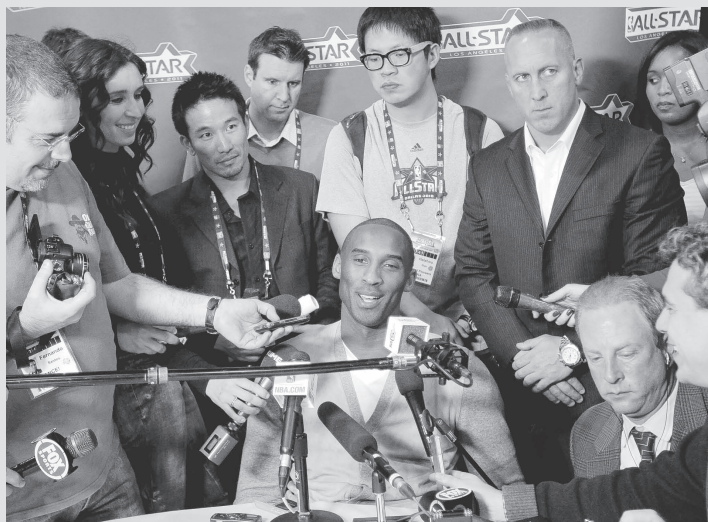
San Antonio Spurs head coach Gregg Popovich, left, talks with center Tim Duncan during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2011, in Chicago. Associated Press

Continued from page B1

It's those first two that should spice up Sunday's game on Bryant's home Staples Center floor, particularly the presence of a record-tying four players from the Los Angeles Lakers' archrival the Boston Celtics.

"I think there will some boos in the stands. I'm expecting that," said San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich, who will coach the Western Conference. Boston's Doc Rivers will lead an East team that includes Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, Ray Allen and Rajon Rondo. He also gets Miami's Big Three, including LeBron James and Dwyane Wade in his starting lineup. "I can get used to that," Rivers said.

Chicago's Derrick Rose, Orlando's Dwight Howard and New York's Amare Stoudemire are the other East starters, with Atlanta's Joe Johnson and Al Horford rounding out the reserves. But most eyes will be on the Celtics and Heat, both of whom already won at Staples Center this season. Bryant denied gaining extra motivation from seeing them again, insisting he gets up to play anybody. But Lakers fans might feel differently if Rivers goes ahead with his previously mentioned plan and puts the four Celtics on the floor together. "Four of them going out



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, center, talks to reporters during media availability for the NBA All Star basketball game in Los Angeles, Friday, Feb. 18, 2011.

Associated Press

there, it might get your blood going," said Celtics great and TV analyst Kevin McHale. "I'm sure they'll look out and think the Celtics are invading again." The Lakers beat the Celtics in Game 7 of last year's NBA finals at Staples Center. An exhibition game could never replace that, but Rivers and his players would love to walk off their longtime rivals' court as winners before the chance they really want in June's finals. That will require the Celtics and Heat, developing their own rivalry, to play nice for a night. James said that's no problem, recalling that his East winners in 2006 had four Detroit Pistons, the only other team to have four players picked by the coaches as reserves. "For that weekend, as hard

as it is, we'll kind of put the rivalries and the dislikes aside for the better of the fans and the better of the game," James said. Rivers is glad to hear it — even if he doesn't necessarily buy it. "I've always been amazed by it, even when you know guys don't like each other," he said. "In this case, I don't know if that's true, but there are certain guys on different teams that don't like each other. And then they're in the All-Star game. I've always laughed when you see 'em like laughing and joking. You know, boy, they're so ... phony right now. That's what you want to say. But that's good. As long as we win the All-Star game, too, that'll be fine." □

on that starting squad. I really don't know why I'm there but I'll take it." Houston center Yao was voted in by the fans but is injured. This will be Duncan's 13th All-Star appearance overall. He was the co-MVP of the 2000 game with Shaquille O'Neal. Guard Manu Ginobili also is going to Los Angeles to represent San Antonio. Duncan's insertion into the starting lineup may be the biggest All-Star decision

for Popovich, who said he is planning on doing no coaching during the game. "Just thinking about walking into that locker room is a humbling and awesome experience," he said. "Just to know you're in the same room with those kinds of players, the best on the planet, it almost makes you want to laugh. You really have to pinch yourself to know that you're in that room, and I think it would be quite forward on my part to try to coach those guys." □

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Wozniacki to reclaim No. 1 ranking after Dubai win

MICHAEL CASEY

AP Sports Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Caroline Wozniacki ensured she will regain the No. 1 ranking from Kim Clijsters after beating Shahar Peer of Israel to reach the semifinals of the Dubai Championships on Friday. The 20-year-old Dane lost the top spot only on Monday, but she will claim it back when the new rankings are released next week after seeing off Peer 6-2, 6-4. Wozniacki will take on the former No. 1 Jelena Jankovic, who beat fourth-seeded Samantha Stosur 6-3, 5-7, 7-6 (4). Svetlana Kuznetsova beat eighth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland 7-6 (7), 6-3, and will play the

11th-seeded Flavia Pennetta of Italy who beat Alisa Kleybanova of Russia 6-2, 6-0.

“Of course, it’s nice to be back to No. 1,” Wozniacki said. “It’s a good feeling. I gave Kim one week. Hopefully, now I will have it for a few more weeks.”

The WTA said Wozniacki will stay at No. 1 for at least four weeks until March 20.

After her short stay at the top came to an end, Clijsters posted a brief message to Wozniacki on her Twitter page: “Congrats :-)) ha ha.” Wozniacki became the first player from Denmark to hold the No. 1 ranking when she toppled the injured Serena Williams in October and remained there for 18 weeks.



Denmark’s Caroline Wozniacki returns the ball to Shahar Peer from Israel during a quarter final match of Dubai WTA Tennis Championships in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday Feb. 18, 2011. Associated Press

But she has yet to reach a Grand Slam final, most recently losing to Li Na of China in the Australian Open semifinals in January. However, last year she won more tournaments than anyone else with six. Peer said she was a deserving No. 1, noting that Clijsters also held the top spot before she won the first of her four Grand Slams.

“It’s not like she put in the computer her name as No. 1,” she said. “She won so many tournaments. I am sure she will (win a Grand Slam) ... She is putting so much work, and she’s not just boom, No. 1.”

Wozniacki appears in good form in Dubai, easily beating an ailing Anna Chakvetadze and then only dropping a game in her third round match against Japanese qualifier Ayumi Morita.

“I’m playing good tennis,” Wozniacki said. “I feel when I’m playing on a high level,

I’m tough to beat. So, I’m really pleased about the way I’m playing at the moment.” Her win on Friday ended another strong run from Peer, who two years ago was barred from playing in Dubai because of nationality. The Israeli player is still given extra security and isolated from the other players in a guarded compound.

Last year, Peer reached the semifinals, beating Wozniacki on the way. This time around, Wozniacki went up early 3-0 in the first set and was never seriously challenged mostly due to the erratic play of the Israeli who had 34 unforced errors — more than twice that of the Dane.

“I played two games good in the first set and only last three or four games in second set. Between that, I played pretty terrible,” Peer said. “I don’t think she had to do anything, just be there and

put the balls in. I finished much better than I started.”

The controversy over Peer in Dubai has died down somewhat and the 23-year-old Israeli said Friday she “hopes to come every year” to the tournament. Peer said she felt “comfortable and safe,” although she still hasn’t played on the venue’s center court.

“It’s something that I dream of,” she said. “I wish one day I’m going to play in the center court. It means I need to get to the finals probably.” While Wozniacki’s match was mostly one-sided, Jankovic’s nearly three-hour affair with Stosur was probably the most entertaining of the tournament.

In the decider, Stosur went up 3-0, 4-1 and 5-3, but Jankovic kept finding a way back into the match before she eventually won the tiebreaker 7-4. □

Contador in contention at Algarve Tour

MALHAO, Portugal (AP) — Alberto Contador has put himself in position to win his third straight Tour of the Algarve cycling race after finishing Friday’s third stage in third place.

Stephen Cummings of Team Sky won the mountainous 111.3-mile leg in 4 hours, 56 minutes, 19 seconds — the same time as Contador and second-place finisher Tejay Van Garderen of HTC-Highroad.

The Tour de France champion moved into second in the overall standings, six seconds behind Cummings.

Contador is racing for the first time since escaping a doping ban for testing positive for banned



Cyclist Alberto Contador, from Spain, warms up before starting the third stage of the cycling Tour of Algarve Friday, Feb. 18, 2011 in Tavira, southern Portugal.

Associated Press

substance clenbuterol at last year’s Tour. The Spanish cycling federation accepted Contador’s claim of a positive test from unintentionally eating contaminated meat. □

MLB holding camp in Brazil for first time

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball International says it will host an elite camp in Brazil for the first time next month. The instructional camps will be in Ibiuna from Feb. 21-24

and Sao Paulo on Feb. 25. Former MLB All-Stars Barry Larkin and Wally Joyner will be instructors at the sessions, which are co-sponsored by the Confederation of Brazilian Baseball and

Softball. Bob Didier, Bruce Hurst and Elias Sosa also will be on the coaching staff. Top junior players from Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, Panama and Peru have been invited to participate. □

Tendulkar gears up at a shot for elusive World Cup

C.RAJSHEKHAR RAO
AP Sports Writer
DHAKA (AP) — India's star batsman Sachin Tendulkar is heading into a record sixth World Cup, still looking for an elusive title victory to cap his outstanding career. And he is not alone in that personal search. Such is status in the sport, having captured all the major batting records in tests and one-day internationals, his India teammates say they want to win the trophy for him.

Aside from having scored the most runs and centuries in either test or one-day cricket, Tendulkar is also the most prolific in World Cup history with 1,796 runs in 36 matches. He has also figured in teams that made the final in 2003 and the semifinals in 1996. Though he didn't elaborate on the importance of that World Cup trophy to him, the 37-year-old Tendulkar made his feelings clear when he said a recent event in his home city of Mumbai that he still wanted "to achieve something and everyone knows that." India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni followed up by saying the team would like to win the World Cup for Tendulkar, a comment which triggered much discussion in cricket-mad India.

"That can be the biggest gift from the team to him. We will try to give it our best shot and make it the best World Cup," said Dhoni, whose views were echoed by several other of the team's leading lights — Harbhajan Singh, Yusuf Pathan and Virat Kohli.

However, the likes former greats Kapil Dev and Australia's Steve Waugh were quick to argue that the Indian team's World Cup should not be about Tendulkar alone.

In all the debate, Tendulkar has remained stoically calm, knowing that big-hitting batsmen like Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Pathan and Dhoni also need to prosper.

For though he scores at a

brisk pace and last year became the first man to score a double-century in ODIs with an unbeaten 200 against South Africa at Gwalior, he is generally known as a more dependable batsman because of his consistency and lack of inherent weaknesses.

Tendulkar is the only man to have scored 50 test centuries and is now only three away from a new milestone of 100 international centuries with 47 made in one-dayers. However, he would rather talk about the results of matches than his contributions.

"My efforts matter only when they help the team win," he said ahead of the World Cup. "It is too early to speak about the performances of players, as it is all about what kind of form you are in during the tournament and how you peak at the right time."

Tendulkar has been taking every precaution in the run-up to the event, which opens on Saturday with India's game against co-host Bangladesh in Dhaka. He played few one-day matches last year after that double-century and returned midway from a five-match



New Zealand's bowler Tim Southee, left, celebrates with Scott Styris the dismissal of India's Sachin Tendulkar, center, during the World Cup warm-up match in Chennai, India, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2011. The ICC Cricket World Cup will begin on Feb. 19.

series in South Africa after a hamstring injury. If he has some happy memories from previous World Cups, there is also the

low point of India's surprise failure at the first hurdle of the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean. "It is always painful when

Associated Press

the team loses, but our early exit in 2007 was particularly disappointing," he said of a tournament where he was asked by team management to bat at number four rather than in his customary opener's position. India's loss to Bangladesh triggered that early exit and, four years later, he has a chance to make amends on Saturday. With the presence of several potential matchwinners in its batting lineup and a spin-led bowling attack that can be ruthless on the subcontinent's slow pitches, India is rightly considered among the World Cup favorites. Its warmup victories over defending three-time champion Australia and New Zealand have also raised expectations about its chances of claiming a World Cup trophy it last won in 1983. India will start its campaign in Group B alongside Bangladesh, South Africa, England, West Indies, Ireland and Netherlands, four of whom will advance to the quarterfinals. □

Dutch part-timers aim for shock at World Cup



Netherlands' batsmen Ryan ten Doeschate, left, and Mudassar Bukhari run between the wickets during their World Cup warm-up cricket match against Kenya at the Sinhalese Sports Club Cricket Ground in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2011.

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press
ROTTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — As most of the Dutch team was packing its orange bags in the country's only

indoor nets on a freezing night in late January, hard-hitting allrounder Ryan Ten Doeschate was gearing up to play for Tasmania against New South Wales in the finals

of Australia's Twenty20 competition. South African-born Ten Doeschate and South Australia's Tom Cooper are the higher-profile players in a Netherlands team of relative unknowns that is also made up of students, a tobacconist and a hamburger restaurant owner. Many of the players had to take time off work or study to travel to the World Cup. But the Dutch part-timers have proven in the past they are capable of pulling off a shock, beating hosts England by four wickets in the opening match of the 2009 Twenty20 World Cup.

"The target for us is obviously to cause upsets, make an impression," New Zealand-born captain Peter Borren said. □

In France

Don't blame easy money for capital swings



PARIS – U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke defended easy money policies in advanced economies against the charge they are overheating emerging markets, saying factors such as exchange rate rigidity are also to blame. Speaking ahead of an economic summit in Paris that will include many critics of the Fed's aggressive bond buying program, Bernanke acknowledged that strong capital flows from advanced economies to emerging markets may be having negative spillover effects. "Capital flows are once again posing some notable

challenges for international macroeconomic and financial stability," he said in remarks prepared for delivery to a Banque de France event in Paris before meetings of the finance ministers and central bankers of the Group of 20 leading economies. However, he said that although policy-makers in the emerging markets clearly face challenges, such concerns should be weighed against stronger emerging market growth and steps emerging economies themselves can take. Central bankers and finance ministers of economies that make up 85 percent of the world's economy are trying to smooth imbalances of trade and investment to ensure steadier economic growth and prevent shocks like the recent crisis. The United States is under fire not only for ultra accommodative monetary policy, but for a

gaping budget deficit that raises concern that if left unchecked, it could someday lead to default. Bernanke's own unorthodox \$600 billion bond buying initiative launched in November has stirred harsh criticism from countries around the world, and he has used international venues to defend it before. U.S. quantitative easing measures have been attacked for driving down the value of the dollar, hurting emerging economy exports and inflating asset bubbles, and the Fed chairman can expect to hear about it from his counterparts at the summit. Bernanke did not mention inflation concerns directly except to say that strong demand in emerging markets is contributing to global commodity price increases, something which affects the most advanced economies as well. □

In Germany

Market council backs Boerse-NYSE tie-up



FRANKFURT – The Exchange Council of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange (FWB) backed Thursday a merger of market operator Deutsche Boerse and NYSE Euronext, a deal that would create the world's biggest exchange. The FWB, which represents brokers, investors and the interests of the German state of Hessen, "commented

positively on the planned merger," a statement said, noting opportunities were to be gained by combining a "global presence and local roots." Council chairman Lutz Raettig said that the move was a "clear expression of the strength and attractiveness of Frankfurt as a financial centre." Deutsche Boerse's strength was "based on its firm roots and ties" in the German financial capital, the statement added. "We have to preserve and safeguard these success factors within the larger unit in future, too," it said. A plan signed on Tuesday by

heads of Deutsche Boerse and NYSE Euronext, and due to be finalized by the end of the year, would create the world's biggest exchange by revenues and profit. According to the Deutsche Boerse website, its management board "requires the approval of the Exchange Council on all questions of fundamental significance." The German market operator's works council has voiced concerns meanwhile over possible job losses, in particular because computer services for the new group are to be based in Paris. □



"Flash crash" panel calls for U.S. market overhaul



WASHINGTON/NEW YORK – U.S. regulators should stem the growing tide of anonymous stock-trading and consider charging high-frequency traders for their disproportionate amount of buy and sell orders, said a panel of experts advising how to avoid another "flash crash." The panel's 14 recommendations for U.S. securities and futures regulators contained some bold ideas that, taken together, would overhaul the high-speed electronic trading market. The advisers on Friday told regulators that today's markets can easily

breed uncertainty among investors, and asked them to move urgently on the suggestions. et many of the ideas called only for "consideration" or "further study" -- potentially raising more questions as the first anniversary of the May 6 flash crash nears. "The recommendations are a good first step but from a practical standpoint of avoiding another (crash) in the future, it doesn't go far enough. I don't think it's possible to prevent another one from happening," said Adam Sarhan, chief executive of Sarhan Capital in New

York. U.S. regulators were cautious about some of the boldest recommendations, including new fee structures to encourage liquidity and discourage high numbers of order cancellations. "I do not know where we as a commission would come down on fees," Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Mary Schapiro told reporters after the panel meeting on its recommendations. The unprecedented May 6, 2010, market crash sent the Dow Jones industrial average down some 700 points before rebounding, all in a matter of minutes. It rattled investors, exposed flaws in the structure of markets, and set regulators on a mission to fix the system and restore confidence. The eight-member panel suggested the SEC consider forcing the banks, hedge funds and others that facilitate stock-trading away from the public exchanges to give investors a better price by a minimum amount. It also wants regulators to consider a way to better allocate the "costs imposed by high levels of order cancellations, including perhaps requiring a uniform fee

across all exchange markets." That suggestion comes after regulators and others began raising questions this past summer about the massive amount of message traffic, or "noise" in the markets, and whether it allowed some high-speed, short-term traders to manipulate prices for profit gains. "What market regulation now has to do is limit uncertainty," said Maureen O'Hara, professor of finance at Cornell University and member of the flash crash panel. "You limit uncertainty by limiting the amount of movement a price can have before it falls off the map." The changes would require the SEC and fellow regulator, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, to take on a massive amount of research and rulewriting at a time when the agencies are straining to carry out the Dodd-Frank financial reform law. While some have argued the crash was a freak event that called for obvious adjustments, such as the new "circuit breaker" trading halts, others said it was a wake-up call to finally get a firm handle on what could destabilize capital markets. □

Due to Chinese stance

G20 indicator deal in doubt

PARIS – China rejected plans to use real exchange rates and currency reserves to measure global economic imbalances, casting doubt on the ability of Group of 20 major economic powers to reach agreement at a meeting on Friday. Speaking shortly before the start of a two-day meeting of finance ministers and central bankers, Chinese Finance Minister Xie Xuren also said the G20 should use trade figures rather than current account balances to assess economic distortions. China's trade surplus has diminished of late. G20 countries, which together account for 85 percent of world economic output, are trying to agree on a set of measurements as a basis for economic policy guidelines to avoid a repeat of the 2008 global financial crisis. "We think it is not appropriate to use real effective exchange rates and reserves," Xie said at a meeting with Russian, Brazilian and Indian counterparts. The hardline Chinese stance highlighted splits over how to define economic imbalances and prescribe action to remedy distortions, although negotiators said several compromise proposals were under discussion. French President Nicolas Sarkozy, who holds the G20 presidency this year, urged ministers not to get sidetracked by the indicators dispute, and welcomed the fact that China had agreed to host a G20 seminar on reforming the international monetary system in Shenzhen in late March. "I want to avoid your debates getting bogged down in interminable discussion about these indicators, which are distracting us from the essentials," Sarkozy said in a speech. The European Union's economic affairs commissioner, Olli Rehn, said the right



indicators to tackle global imbalances included the current account, the real effective exchange rate and currency reserves as well as public and private debt. "Especially, the current account and the real effective exchange rate are essential," Rehn told reporters. Canadian Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said there was consensus on two indicators measuring public and private debt and negotiations were continuing on other measurements. But even if the yardsticks are agreed, there is no sign of numerical targets even being broached. Sarkozy told the ministers that economic policy coordination was the only way forward. "Giving priority to national interests would be the death of the G20," he said. Differences over the causes of and cures for global economic imbalances were also on display at a public debate among the world's top central bankers on Friday. Bank of England Governor Mervyn King, reflecting the view of many Western policymakers, said the world risked protectionism or another financial crisis if policymakers failed to reduce currency distortions and other imbalances. □

Brazil focuses on China, Iran

BRASILIA – Brazil set out its foreign policy aims under new President Dilma Rousseff, talking up China ties, blaming rich countries for hampering global trade talks, stressing dialogue with Iran, and saying it sees itself as an agent for "world peace." The major lines, announced by Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota to state media, showed Rousseff staying pretty much on paths

blazed by her predecessor and mentor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, whom she succeeded last month. They did, however, reinforce the ambition of Latin America's preeminent power and the world's eighth biggest economy of gaining diplomatic heft commensurate with its growing financial might. Brazil's relationship with China the main customer for Brazilian raw materials such as



iron ore was given special attention, ahead of a trip Rousseff is to make there April 13-15 for bilateral talks and a BRIC summit. Brazil and Turkey last year extracted a concession from Tehran to engage in a nuclear fuel swap deal. □

Oil prices rise as Middle East clashes continue

Benchmark crude prices rose Friday as anti-government clashes in the Middle East kept worries of oil supply disruptions alive ahead of the Presidents Day holiday weekend. Closer to home, motorists planning trips during the three-day weekend found gas pump prices about 54 cents higher than a year ago, with prices for a gallon of regular ranging nationally from \$2.958 to \$3.752. The national average for a gallon of regular was \$3.156 on Friday, according to AAA, Wright Express and the Oil Price Information Service. It was 54 cents cheaper a year ago. Instability in the Middle East was the biggest worry for most energy traders



on Friday. Troops in Bahrain confronted thousands of protesters calling for an end to the country's monarchy. In Libya, Moammar Gaddafi's regime deployed security forces and warned citizens against joining the unrest in which dozens of protesters have been killed. □

ECONOMY

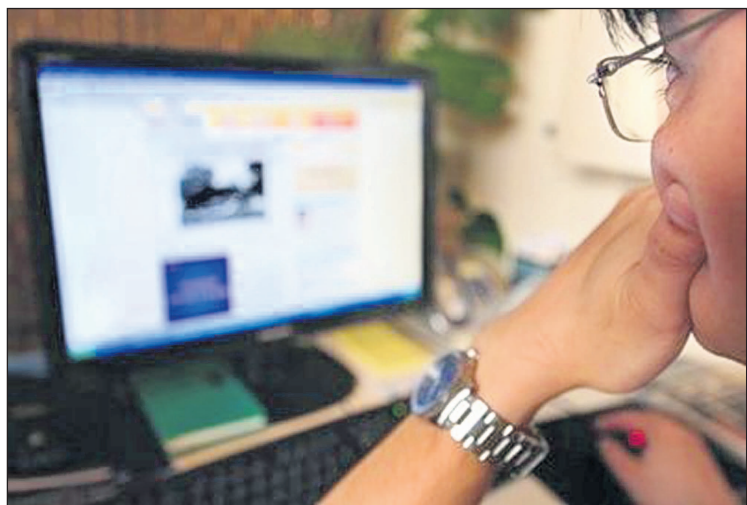
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Firewall architect admits skirting China barriers



SHANGHAI — The architect of China's "Great Firewall" has admitted using software to circumvent the vast system of Internet censorship but only to probe the security of his widely reviled creation. Fang Binxing said he uses six virtual private networks (VPNs) to scale the government's far-reaching online barrier, whose restrictions on sensitive content extend to banning Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. "I have six VPNs on my home computer," Fang, 50, said in a rare interview published in Friday's Global Times newspaper.

But Fang, president of the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, said he uses them purely

to test the firewall's effectiveness. "I'm not interested in reading messy information like some of that anti-government stuff," Fang told the English-language state newspaper. Fang also defended the Great Firewall, calling it "urgently" needed. He is considered the inventor of the system, which filters out information deemed subversive or politically harmful by China's communist government. China has sanitised media reports on the Middle East unrest and restricted online discussion of it, apparently fearful it could spark calls for democracy at home. China has a world-leading 457 million Internet users, according to official figures,

and countless Chinese find ways to access banned content through VPNs. Such networks get behind the firewall by disguising a user's location, often via a foreign server. Thousands of Chinese Internet users vented their anger at Fang in December when he opened a microblog account on web portal Sina.com, which operates a tightly managed Twitter clone. Fang closed the account within days. "He is the enemy of all netizens who are forced to scale the wall all day long," said one typical comment, later deleted by web monitors. Fang told the newspaper the comments were "dirty abuse" that he endured "as a sacrifice for my country". "They can't get what they want so they need to blame someone emotionally: like if you fail to get a US visa and you slag off the US visa official afterwards," he said. Internet users savaged Fang anew on Friday over his latest comments. "When new forces come into power someday, he will get his comeuppance," said an entry on one website, cnblogs.com. "Kill him!" railed another user. However, in a tribute to

Fang's brainchild, criticism was otherwise scarce as the use of his name is blocked on many major websites, including hugely popular Twitter-like Chinese microblogging services. Fang defended the Great Firewall as a pressing necessity when it went up in 1998 and said it needed to be upgraded to prevent people from tunnelling under. "Drivers just obey the rules," he said, comparing the firewall to traffic control. "So citizens should just play with what they have." China's Internet controls have become a key irritant in relations with the United States, especially after a dispute over Chinese censorship led US search engine giant Google to reduce its presence in China. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton renewed a call for Internet freedom on Tuesday, saying nations like China that suppress online activity will pay an economic cost and risk unrest like that seen recently in the Middle East. She also announced plans to launch State Department Twitter feeds in Chinese, Russian and Hindi, just days after starting feeds in Arabic and Farsi. □

In California Apple's Steve Jobs meets with Obama



WOODSIDE, California — Apple Inc. Chief Executive Steve Jobs, on medical leave from the company he co-founded, attended a meeting of technology industry leaders with U.S. President Barack Obama in northern California on Thursday.

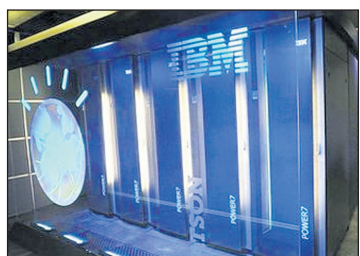
Jobs, a pancreatic cancer survivor, was joined by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Google Inc Chief Executive Eric Schmidt, Oracle CEO Larry Ellison and other members of the Silicon Valley elite for talks with Obama at a venture capitalist's sprawling estate outside San Francisco.

Jobs, 55, a high-tech visionary who has come to embody Apple's turbulent history and some of the industry's most cutting-edge products, stepped away from the company on medical leave last month. It was the third time in seven years that he has taken time out because of health reasons.

Obama's two-day West Coast visit was aimed at promoting technological innovation to help boost the struggling U.S. economy and reduce stubbornly high unemployment -- considered crucial to his 2012 re-election chances. Obama met with 12 leaders from technology companies and discussed ways to work together to invest in innovation and promote private sector job growth, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said after the meeting. □

IBM, Nuance will share tech Developing of Dr. Watson

Now that the dust has settled on the Jeopardy showdown, IBM and Nuance Communications have announced a research agreement to develop the Watson supercomputer for the healthcare industry. The deal combines Big Blue's deep question answering (QA), natural language processing, and machine learning capabilities with Nuance's speech recognition and clinical language understanding (CLU) solutions to diagnose and even treat patients. Dr. John E. Kelly III, senior vice president and director of IBM Research, is confident that the collaboration sets the stage to "transform the way healthcare professionals accomplish everyday tasks."



IBM offered a scenario in which a doctor who is considering a patient diagnosis could use Watson's analytics technology and Nuance's voice and clinical language understanding solutions to consider all the related texts, reference materials, prior cases, and latest knowledge in journals and medical literature. Armed with this information, Watson could help medical professionals determine the most likely diagnosis and treatment options. □

Sony booming in India on strong brand image

TOKYO — Sony is doing booming business in India, dominating in flat-panel TVs and digital cameras, and is in good shape to keep growing in coming years, a top executive said Friday. Sony's success in India where a new middle class is snatching up gadgets is a bright spot for the Japanese electronics maker that's getting beaten in North America by U.S. rival Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. of South Korea. Sony Corp. has No. 1 market share in flat-panel TVs in India at 34 percent and digital cameras at 40 percent, according to the maker of Bravia TVs and Cybershot cameras. Sony is also No.

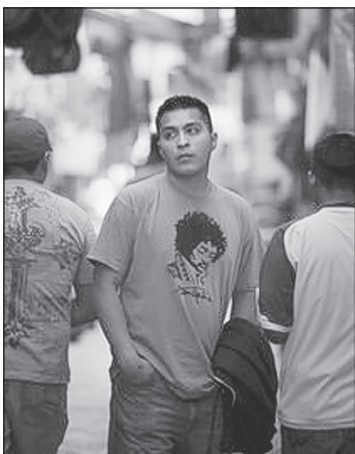


1 in India in home theaters and camcorders. "We don't rely on tricks or gimmicks to rise to the top," Masaru Tamagawa, managing director of Sony's India unit, told reporters. "India is a success that can be held up as an example." Sony has lost money in its core TV business for six years straight, and is on its way to another year of red ink in TVs for the fiscal year ending March 2011. □

Film lays bare

Mexico's broken injustice

MEXICO CITY – Antonio Zuniga was minding his own business, walking through his Mexico City neighborhood, when police arrested him on charges of murdering a young gang member he had never seen. He was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years in prison, despite overwhelming evidence of his innocence. The story might have ended there if it hadn't been for two determined lawyers armed with a video camera. They got the street vendor a retrial and, finally, acquittal by an appeals court thanks to the video they shot, which turned into a harrowing documentary that opens in Mexico on Friday in its first run in commercial theaters. "Presumed Guilty," which premiered two years ago at the Belfast Film Festival, has been shown in more than a dozen international festivals and on U.S. public television. It even won the best documentary category at Mexico's own Morelia Film Festival in 2009. But the film would have been almost forgotten in its home country if not for key members of Mexico's



entertainment elite, who promoted its commercial release at a moment when botched cases and legal abuses are causing public outrage. "Indifference and ignorance are the major illnesses we're experiencing," said Diego Luna, the Mexican actor and director who has used his Hollywood star power to promote the documentary. "We've learned to live with injustice and move on as if nothing were wrong." "Presumed Guilty" offers a rare front-row look into Mexico's secretive court system, which places the burden of proof on defendants. Trials conducted largely on paper offer no chance for public scrutiny. □

At Grammys

TV reporter speaks out about speech problem



LOS ANGELES – A TV reporter who lapsed into gibberish during a live shot outside the Grammys said she was terrified when it happened and knew something was wrong as soon as she opened her mouth. KCBS-TV reporter Serene Branson's incoherence Sunday fueled Internet

speculation that she suffered an on-air stroke. But doctors at the University of California, Los Angeles, where she went to get a brain scan and blood work done, ruled it out. Doctors said she suffered a type of migraine that can mimic symptoms of a stroke. Branson told CBS' "The Early Show" in an interview Friday that she was terrified, scared and confused, and didn't know what was going on. "I knew something wasn't right as soon as I opened my mouth," she said. "I hadn't been feeling well a little bit before the live shot. I had a headache, my vision was very blurry. □

Film explores centuries-old Albanian blood feuds

BERLIN – "The Forgiveness of Blood" is a new film exploring centuries-old oral traditions that govern how some families in Albania settle their blood feuds to this day. Modern clashes with medieval in U.S. director Joshua Marston's powerful movie, which has its premiere at the Berlin film festival on Friday. It is the last of 16 competition films to be screened at the annual cinema showcase, and early critical reaction suggests it could be in the running for awards at the festival's closing ceremony on Saturday. The Forgiveness of Blood centres on a family living in rural Albania which is drawn into a dispute with a nearby clan over access to land. When the feud ends in murder, the aggrieved party



imposes the harsh rules of the Kanun, a 15th century Balkan code that gives it the right to kill a male member of the offending family in retribution. Rather than a simple eye-for-an-eye, other rules can be applied through the code which is not officially recognized in Albanian law, according to the filmmakers, but which has been imposed nonetheless. At the center of the feud governed by adults' anger, pride, ignorance and intransigence is Nik, a 17-year-old who is no longer allowed to leave home for fear of being killed, his

seven-year-old brother and Rudina, his 15-year-old sister. Rudina is allowed out, and turns adversity into opportunity by finding extra sources of income as she seeks to support the family single-handed. But for Nik life becomes a nightmare, as opportunities for friendship, love and success pass him by. "For me it's a story about a conflict between generations and a conflict between the old and the new," Marston told reporters in Berlin after a press screening. The director, whose 2004 debut feature was the acclaimed "Maria Full of Grace," said the key image for him was of a 21st century boy sending text messages and playing video games in captivity in his home thanks to 15th century rules. "He's a modern boy who's had his life disrupted by something completely old. □

Ralph Lauren's Chinese gesture



New York – Glamour with a Chinese accent and aesthetic was the big news this season at Ralph Lauren, whose fall 2011 collection recalled the Golden Age of Hollywood as much as today's growing global giant. Presented on, of course, a black lacquer runway, the collection used Chinoiserie, classic passementerie, dragoons and lotus flowers, and lots of strong red

detailing. "China is such an immense phenomena. We talk about it every day. So I felt as a designer it was something I had to address," Lauren said after the show, staged in a downtown New York gallery on Thursday, Feb. 17. Throughout there was a nightclub air to the show - most of the outfits were evening wear, and the majority of them in black. □

Radiohead releases new album

NEW YORK – Radiohead's new album "The King of Limbs" has arrived a day early. The band made the album available Friday for download from its website. Radiohead announced the album release on Monday, saying it would be out Saturday. Unlike the band's 2007 pay-what-you-want album, "In

Rainbows," this one has a price. Fans can pre-order an MP3 download for \$9 or a higher-quality WAV version for \$14. For approximately \$50, there's also an extensive vinyl edition with deluxe packaging. Radiohead also released a black-and-white video for the song "Lotus Flower" off the new album. □





Speaking 2 languages may delay getting Alzheimer's



WASHINGTON — Mastering a second language can pump up your brain in ways that seem to delay getting Alzheimer's disease later on, scientists said Friday. Never learned to habla or parlez? While the new research focuses mostly on the truly long-term bilingual, scientists say even people who tackle a new language later in life stand to gain. The more proficient you become, the better, but "every little bit helps," said Ellen Bialystok, a psychology professor at York University in Toronto. Much of the study of bilingualism has centered on babies, as scientists wondered why simply

speaking to infants in two languages allows them to learn both in the time it takes most babies to learn one. Their brains seem to become more flexible, better able to multitask. As they grow up, their brains show better "executive control," a system key to higher functioning as Bialystok puts it, "the most important part of your mind." But does that mental juggling while you're young translate into protection against cognitive decline when you're old? Bialystok studied 450 Alzheimer's patients, all of whom showed the same degree of impairment at the time of diagnosis. □

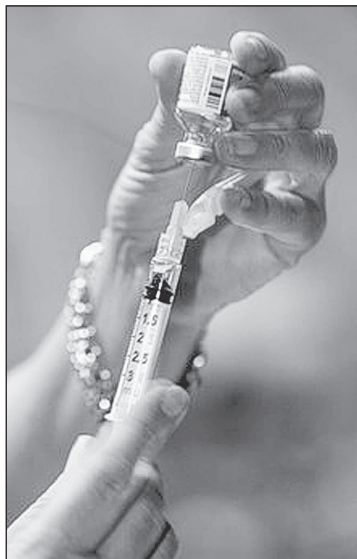
For kids in poverty, no brain benefit from supliments

NEW YORK — Giving impoverished infants iron and zinc supplements to prevent nutritional deficiencies may not have lasting benefits for their mental skills, a new study shows. The findings, from a study of school-age children in northeastern Thailand, suggest that iron and zinc do not boost their IQ, memory or other intellectual abilities at least not when the minerals are given only during infancy. Iron and zinc are important to normal brain development, and children in developing

nations are at risk of deficiencies in both minerals. Some studies have found that giving these children iron and zinc during infancy can improve their blood levels of the nutrients, and possibly help them reach some developmental milestones sooner like walking on their own. But little has been known about whether those supplements have lasting benefits. In the new study, researchers assessed 560 nine-year-olds in Thailand who, as infants,

CDC reports

U.S. flu season picking up



The flu season got off to a slow start in the United States last fall, but is now circulating in all 50 states and widespread in 37, health officials report. Pediatric deaths from flu tripled in the past month, jumping from 10 early in January to 30 by Feb. 5, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "We still have a lot of flu out there," said CDC spokesman Tom Skinner. "We saw activity really start to pick up in December, and it has continued through January

into February, which is normal," he said. Outpatient doctor visits because of flu increased steadily from January to February, according to the report in the Feb. 18 issue of the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. The report covers the period from Oct. 3, 2010, to Feb. 5, 2011. While it's too early for exact numbers, the flu, which usually peaks in February, contributed to 8 percent of adult deaths in 122 cities that report this data to the CDC. This is considered an epidemic level. "This year we are seeing a very typical flu season," noted one expert, Dr. Marc Siegel, an associate professor of medicine at New York University, New York City. "The time is right on target. This is when you see the peak of flu season." He added that "the number of hospitalizations and deaths are right on course for a typical flu season." Each year about 200,000 Americans are hospitalized and 37,000 will

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Protestas en Bolivia por alza en alimentos

LA PAZ (AP) - Las protestas se intensificaron el viernes en varias ciudades de Bolivia donde centenares de manifestantes marcharon en rechazo al aumento en el precio de los alimentos y en reclamo de subas salariales. En La Paz, ni la lluvia ni el frío detuvieron la marcha de la Central Obrera Boliviana (COB), sindicato que agrupa a miles de trabajadores, que había convocado a una huelga general que se cumplió a medias. Los manifestantes se abrieron paso por el centro de esta capital lanzando bombas de estruendo. “Los precios de los alimentos básicos de la canasta familiar están más caros y los salarios están bajos. Los desocupados que no tienen trabajo están destinados a morir”, dijo a periodistas Pedro Montes, máximo dirigente del COB. Montes planteó al gobierno de Evo Morales un salario mínimo nacional de acuerdo con una canasta familiar para cinco personas de más de 8.000 bolivianos (unos 1.183 dólares). Pero Morales

consideró “irracional” el pedido. Los precios de los alimentos subieron luego de que el gobierno decretó en diciembre un incremento de hasta 83% en los carburantes. Aunque Morales dio marcha atrás con la medida, varios alimentos mantuvieron los nuevos precios. En un principio el gobierno atribuyó el alza a la crisis alimenticia provocada por las sequías e inundaciones del año pasado que afectaron las cosechas. Pero Morales culpó el viernes en parte al sector empresarial. “Nos hemos confiado mucho en los empresarios, no podemos confiarnos en esos agroindustriales. Ahora el Estado va a tener su propio ingenio o dos que estamos instalando, para que no estén saboteando”, dijo el mandatario. El azúcar es el alimento que más ha escaseado. La pasada semana el gobierno importó el producto desde Colombia para proveer al mercado local. El gobierno también está importando maíz: el



Centenares de manifestantes marcharon en rechazo al aumento en el precio de los alimentos y en reclamo de subas salariales, en La Paz, Bolivia, el viernes 18 de febrero, 2011.

(AP Photo/Juan Karita)

viernes llegaron las primeras 35.000 toneladas de Argentina y se prevé una próxima carga de 15.000 toneladas. Las protestas comenzaron el

lunes. En algunas ciudades también se registraron hechos vandálicos. A su vez, los sindicatos del transporte urbano de

Cochabamba, Oruro y Potosí aumentaron las tarifas de los pasajes más de un 30%, lo que provocó marchas de protesta en esas ciudades. □

Brasil buscará equilibrio en comercio con China

BRASILIA (AP) - Brasil buscará establecer un mayor equilibrio en su comercio con China cuando la presidenta Dilma Rousseff visite el país asiático en abril, dijo el viernes el canciller Antonio Patriota. El ministro de Relaciones Exteriores destacó que el comercio tiene un desequilibrio porque mientras Brasil exporta fundamentalmente productos básicos a China, importa de ese país bienes manufacturados y de capital. No obstante, reconoció que ese desequilibrio también favorece a Brasil, que en 2010 alcanzó un superávit de más de 5.000 millones de dólares en el comercio bilateral. China es el principal socio comercial

del país sudamericano. “La presidenta va a buscar en Pekín (Beijing) un equilibrio que sea beneficioso para los dos países”, expresó Patriota en una entrevista con radioemisoras de todo el país. Brasil exportó a China 30.786 millones de dólares e importó 25.593 millones en 2010, el mayor volumen intercambiado por el país sudamericano con otro país. Un informe reciente de la Confederación Nacional de la Industria advirtió que las importaciones chinas han desplazado a productores brasileños en el mercado local e internacional, por el cambio favorable y lo menores costos de producción en el país asiático. □

Venezuela pide a EEUU no inmiscuirse en huelga de hambre

CARACAS (AP) - El canciller Nicolás Maduro afirmó el viernes que la huelga de hambre que mantienen unos 65 jóvenes se resolverá sin el “tutelaje de nadie”, rechazó una declaración estadounidense sobre el caso y acusó a Washington de “inmiscuirse” en asuntos internos venezolanos. Maduro también fustigó los comentarios que realizó el secretario general de la OEA, José Miguel Insulza, sobre la huelga que mantienen los jóvenes que exigen la revisión de los derechos humanos en el país, y dijo que el funcionario chileno “está tergiversando el papel que debe cumplir un coordinador interno”. “La secretaría general (de la OEA) no es ni un virreinato, ni nada por estilo, que va a gobernar a todos los países de América y va a inmescuirse”, dijo el canciller

en declaraciones difundidas por la estatal Venezolana de Televisión (VTV). Asimismo, aseguró que Insulza “no se ha comunicado oficialmente para hacer alguna solicitud” sobre el caso de los jóvenes. Maduro sostuvo que Venezuela dispone de “mecanismos internos” para revisar los reclamos de los activistas que exigen la liberación de un grupo de detenidos que la oposición llama “presos políticos” y la visita de la Organización de Estados Americanos, OEA, para evaluar esos casos. “Nuestro país no necesita de ningún tutelaje de nadie, de ninguna instancia”, agregó. En alusión al comunicado que emitió en la víspera el Departamento de Estado en el que pidió al gobierno venezolano que permita la visita de la OEA al país para “promover el diálogo y el entendimiento”, Maduro

expresó que “rechazamos absolutamente que el gobierno de los Estados Unidos venga a inmescuirse en este asunto”. “Rechazamos la arrogancia con que actúa el gobierno de Estados Unidos”, acotó. El ministro de Relaciones Interiores, Tareck El Aissami, afirmó el viernes que los jóvenes en huelga de hambre se mantienen en una situación “muy delicada”, y aseguró que las autoridades están pendientes de esa situación. El Aissami, quien visitó el jueves a los huelguistas, dijo a VTV que el gobierno está dispuesto a “evaluar” los reclamos de los activistas, aunque insistió en que los procesos de los “presos políticos” dependen del Poder Judicial, y recordó que algunos de los detenidos son procesados por actos de “terrorismo” y violaciones a derechos humanos. □

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